

HOME NEWS

Men alleged to have damaged John Peel's grave for 'revenge'

From Our Correspondent
Wigton

A telephone call to a news agency said that the bones of John Peel, Cumbria's famous huntsman, had been dug up and thrown into a cesspit, it was stated at Wigton Magistrates' Court yesterday.

Three men were before the court on a charge of causing criminal damage to a headstone, the property of the rector and churchwardens of Calbeck parish church.

They were David Hough, aged 48, company director, of Farriers Road, Middle Barton, Banbury, Oxfordshire; Michael Huskinson, aged 23, post-graduate student of Abbotsey, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire; and Garry Treadwell, aged 21, formerly of Ridge Close, Nulley, Sussex, and now of no fixed address.

The men elected to go for trial at the Crown Court and asked for reporting restrictions to be lifted. Mr Hough asked that in the interests of a fair trial none of the magistrates should have any connection with blood sports or with local councils or the Church of England.

Mr Ivan Stowe, the chairman, said that none of them had any connection with blood sports or councils, but he told Mr Hough that his objections to their belonging to the church were frivolous.

Mr John Kay, for the prosecution, said that John Peel had been immortalized in a hunting song and his grave in Calbeck was something of a landmark. The headstone was found to have been damaged on January 23. A corner had been knocked off and the grave had been dug into.

He alleged that the offence was committed to cause publicity for the cause of anti-hunting. The grave, which was

still tended by relatives of John Peel, was dug up to a depth of about three feet and a fox's head and a note in the form of a poem were placed in it.

The poem was as lacking in literary merit as it was in taste, he said.

It conveyed that it was an act of revenge on behalf of all the foxes that had been killed in Peel's hunting career.

Mr Kay said that Mr Geoffrey Smith, senior assistant news editor of the Press Association, had received an anonymous telephone call from a man who said that John Peel's bones had been dug up and thrown into a cesspit. The man said that it was the work of the Animal Liberation Front.

Mr Kay said that some bones found in the bottom of the grave had been reburied. "It was unlikely they belonged to Mr Peel because his wife and son, John, who died after him, were buried in the same grave", he said.

He alleged that fibres on the fox's head matched those on a pair of trousers found in Mr Hough's home, and some soil on his wellington boots was similar to that at Calbeck.

Mr Huskinson, he said, denied that he had been in Cumbria, but a picture taken from his camera showed him to have been in a Worthington car park in evidence that the man who telephoned the Press Association said in a second call that they had dug down about six feet and added: "We think we got everything out, it was pretty heavy, but something has to be done to help foxes".

The hearing continues today.

Life ban on persistent drunken drivers urged

Motorists convicted of driving with an alcohol level above 200 mg in a millilitre of blood and those who constantly offend by driving with levels above the present legal limit of 80 mg should lose their licences for life, or at least until they could prove that their drinking was no longer an obstacle, Sir Bernard Braine, MP, chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism, said in Nottingham yesterday.

There were grounds for believing that many drink-driving drivers were either alcoholics or heavy drinkers and that the consequences of conviction were not sufficient to make them break the habit or seek treatment, he said.

Blaming drivers had been recommended by the Blennerhassett committee, set up in 1974 to examine the law on drinking and driving. In America coercion used in industry

alcoholism programmes for employees had shown recovery rates of over 70 per cent, greater than anything achieved in Britain.

There should be no further delay in implementing the committee's proposals, Sir Bernard said. In Britain prosecutions for drinking and driving offences had risen from 56 in 1966 to 10,000 in 1976.

In 1966, 11,327 motorists were convicted of drunken driving and in 1975 the total had risen to 70,394, of whom more than half had consumed more than twice the legal limit.

Alcoholism was increasing considerably and convictions for drunkenness had risen every year since 1966. Last year there were 108,698 offences, 8,642 of them by women. The biggest percentage increase was in under-age drunkenness, from 1,880 in 1966 to 6,113 last year.

Union takes Grunwick before tribunal

By Robert Parker

Another stage in the Grunwick dispute starts today when the company appears before a tribunal to answer allegations by the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical, and Computer Staff (Apex) that pay and conditions at its factory do not compare well with similar companies.

Apex is taking the company before the Central Arbitration Committee under schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975. That is designed to make sure that people doing similar work should be paid equally.

The schedule has only recently come into force and there are hundreds of applications under it.

Grunwick and Apex have so far submitted written material. Oral submissions, together with additional written material, will be placed before the tribunal today.

When the tribunal, under Professor J. C. Wood, has heard the evidence it is expected to take up to a month to reach a decision.

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Decisions on solicitors

The Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal in London yesterday ordered Mr Cyril Marcus Harris of Bridge Street, Manchester, to be struck off the roll of solicitors for misapplying clients' money, but suspended the order pending a possible appeal.

The tribunal restored Mr Stephen John Gwynne Agency of Bampton, Devon, to the roll. He had been struck off in 1972 after being convicted of obtaining money by deception.

A public inquiry early next year may decide the fate of a £40m scheme to safeguard water supplies in the south-west of England, which was severely affected by last year's drought. It will be fiercely contested by landowners and farmers on one side and the South West Water Authority on the other.

The inquiry will decide whether a reservoir with a capacity of 8,230 million gallons should be built at Roadford, west Devon, to supply Plymouth, north Devon and parts of south Devon.

The reservoir is central to the authority's strategic plan for Cornwall and Devon, one of the worst areas in Britain for water supplies. It is the last of three major reservoirs that form the basis of the plan and without it the authority will have to look for sites for smaller reservoirs, which could cause delays of many years.

The two other reservoirs are at Wimbleball, in north Devon, and Colliford, on Bodmin Moor, in Cornwall.

Each reservoir has a capacity of 4,500 million gallons and will serve the Exeter and Tiverton areas, parts of south-west Devon and parts of Somerset for the Wessex Water Authority. Water will be impounded at the end of this year.

Colliford has a capacity of 6,230 million gallons and is due to be completed by the early 1980s. It will supply most of Cornwall.

The south-west strategic plan was devised shortly after the new water authorities were created in 1974, and was considered the most likely solution of the area's particular water difficulties. They include a lack of storage facilities, an old and inefficient distribution system and the enormous extra demand created by the influx of about four million tourists every summer.

Last year's drought, the worst in living memory in the South-west, made it all the more important that the strategy should be put into action. At one stage 60,000 people were forced to use standpipes for their water supplies and later on in the summer they had to do so even during pouring rain.

The winter downpours helped to replenish stocks and a wet summer this year guaranteed

Britain as a tiger exporting nation

By Alan Hamilton

Exports of British-bred rare animals are doing well. Last year 21 tigers, four leopards, one pygmy hippopotamus, two servals and 200 axolotls were sent abroad. The axolotl being a small, new-like amphibian from Mexico, this is a rare tribute to British enterprise.

But imports of rare animals continue. During 1976 we brought in, among other things: six leopards, one rhinoceros, six Mongolian antelopes, one Chilean pudu, 10 chimpanzees, nine polar bears, 30 falcons, four giant tortoises, 90,000 common tortoises, 150 box constrictors and three pythons.

The figures were compiled by Customs and Excise officers. The trade in exotic animals, alive and dead, is disclosed in a report published yesterday by the Department of the Environment on the first year of operation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species now signed by 36 nations, which seeks to curtail the traffic in rare animals and plants by strict control and licensing.

Since the treaty was signed by Britain last year, further controls have been applied to some species in particular danger: apes, otters, rhinoceroses, peregrine falcons and sea turtles. Almost all kinds of large cats, primates, elephants and crocodiles are protected by the treaty.

The Department of the Environment's wildlife conservation section is awaiting the 1977 figures with interest to see if there has been any significant drop in the trade of threatened species.

The trade in rare live animals is small, and the figures are largely made up of specimens moving between zoos, or the comings and goings of cecilians. The dead animal traffic is much greater.

Last year we imported 112 jaguar skins, 159 leopard skins, three leopard heads, two tiger skins, one stuffed tiger, one Nile crocodile skin, 400,000 lizard skins of various kinds, one polar bear, one rhinoceros head, one Seychelles turtle shell, 3,000 metres of box constrictor skin, mainly from Argentina.

The ivory trade, although illegal in many countries where the elephant is indigenous, continues to flourish. National Health Service patients and appealed to their representatives to return to the rates study group, from which they withdrew last week.

Insisting that patients should not be made a bargaining counter in industrial disputes, Mr Ennals said that at his request Mr H. S. Duncan, the chairman of the study group, was willing to reconvene the group for a meeting next Monday.

Mr Ennals emphasized that



Stabbed PC: Police constable Dan Sammie, aged 20, in St Stephen's Hospital, Chelsea, yesterday after being stabbed four times in the back while on observation in plain clothes in the King's Road. Scotland Yard said four white youths and a black boy aged about 14 were being sought over the unprovoked attack.

Dentists reject Ennals move on expenses

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

A move by Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, to get new discussions on dentist expenses within the Dental Rates Study Group was dismissed by the British Dental Association last night.

In a statement Mr Ennals said he was appalled by the association's decision to take such a hostile line against National Health Service patients and appealed to their representatives to return to the rates study group, from which they withdrew last week.

Insisting that patients should not be made a bargaining counter in industrial disputes, Mr Ennals said that at his request Mr H. S. Duncan, the chairman of the study group, was willing to reconvene the group for a meeting next Monday.

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the present disagreement concerned only expenses and not earnings. The method of adjustment was one the dentists themselves had requested three years ago.

Mr Ronald Allen, secretary of the BDA, said he was angry and astonished by Mr Ennals's action. Mr Duncan was a public spirited man doing his job responsibly. He had reported the failure of the group to recommend a revised scale of fees for dentists and the matter had been passed back to Mr Ennals.

"Nothing has changed", Mr Allen said. "We think it extremely unfair that the chairman has been brought into a conflict of which he is not part."

Mr Ennals seemed unable to comprehend that in the view of dentists the question of expenses could not be separated from fees.

Children blamed for causing £10m fire damage

Children deliberately started fires in England and Wales last year which cost at least £10m, Mr Charles East, chairman of the Central Fire Liaison Panel, said in London yesterday.

At least 240 big fires were started deliberately during the year, at a total cost of £23m, compared with 19 in 1967 at a cost of £3,250,000.

Incendiarism, he added, was by far the main cause of big fires.

Acas to look into London funeral strike

By a Staff Reporter

Both parties involved in the strike of London funeral workers, which started yesterday, are to put their case to the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas) tomorrow in an attempt to settle their dispute over pay.

Cemeteries and funeral parlours in London were picketed as the strike started. It is the first in the 60-year history of the National Union of Funeral Service Operatives. Although no funeral processions were turned back many funerals due to take place yesterday were cancelled.

The London Association of Funeral Directors, representing about 170 companies, denied union statements that the strike was a result of a dispute over pay. The association said the strike was also badly affected although about 15 per cent of union members continued working.

Most private companies, he said, were working through the day, in spite of picketing. At one funeral in south London the procession was temporarily halted while pickets spoke to the driver of the hearse, asking unsuccessfully that he should join them.

The union is claiming an extra £10 a week, most of which it says is justified by a 9 per cent reduction in manpower in the past two years. The funeral directors, who have offered a 5 per cent wage increase, say the two of the incomes policy and a 50p lunch allowance, say they cannot offer more without breaching the Government's pay guidelines.

Mr Roy Wheeler, the union's national organizer, said yesterday: "Things are looking good from our point of view, and the strike has been 95 per cent effective. We do not expect it to have its full impact until about Wednesday. There are a number of companies in London which are non-union and these will be picketed."

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said he did not expect the strike to have any effect on the housing Green Paper from November 1 to December 1 in response to requests from interested bodies for more time to prepare their comments.

Mr Shore was speaking at a meeting organized by the new towns subcommittee of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Later, in reply to questions,

Mr Shore also disclosed during the meeting that his department was considering an application for planning permission from Peterlee New Town Corporation, Co Durham, where housing is virtually complete, for more land for industrial development.

Mr Benn attacks Labour prime ministers' level of patronage

From George Clark

Political Correspondent

Brighton

"The intolerable level of personal patronage" exercised by Labour prime ministers was condemned last night by Mr Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, when he addressed prospective Labour candidates at a meeting of the Labour Parliamentary Association in Brighton.

Mr Benn sought to turn the attention of his audience away from the controversial subject of the reselection of MPs to matters which he thought deserved greater attention: the patronage powers of a prime minister, the abolition of the House of Lords, and the opening up of the flow of information that was being blocked by the operation of the official secrets Acts.

"We cannot have a democratic system in our movement or in our Government while we accept the intolerable level of patronage which still characterizes our conduct of affairs", he said. Sir Harold Wilson, the former Prime Minister, in his book *The Governance of Britain*, had set himself the task of destroying the thesis put forward by Richard Crossman that Britain was advancing to a presidential system of government.

Mr Harold had said that a prime minister was as equal among his Cabinet colleagues, and Mr Benn agreed it was true that in his experience he had

known prime ministers to yield to the majority view.

"But the power of a prime minister rests in the patronage which he exercises", he added. "Harold Wilson in the course of his long service as Prime Minister appointed or reshuffled 403 ministers and secretaries of state, 25 chairmen of nationalized industries, and 18 chairmen of public corporations, and you can forget the bishops and judges which he also appointed."

"For not one of these appointments was he constitutionally required to consult anybody at all, or even get a confirmation of the House of Commons."

Mr Benn reminded his audience that it took 40 million people to elect 365 members of the Commons. But the last seven prime ministers had appointed 750 peers, each with a vote in Parliament.

The Labour Party, he said, must make one of its objectives the substitution of a better system for that process of selection by political patronage to appointments without responsibility. The system made by the Labour conference and by the electorate were to be effectively carried through.

Mr Benn criticized the Civil Service for its influence in holding back the implementation of the Labour Party election promises. "I have never secured a single victory for anything I wanted to do in Whitehall unless I was able to harness the Labour

movement behind me to secure the success of my policy."

Other proposals had not been carried through under the Labour Government because, lacking a united movement behind them, they had been bypassed in Whitehall.

Concerning parliamentary reform, he said: "As part of the wider question of the supremacy of the House of Commons, I am glad that at this conference we are going without debate to pass our unanimous resolution on the House of Lords—ending it and not amending it, finishing it, and not replacing it."

Calling for a reform of the official secrets Acts, and the free flow of information between ministers and MPs and the party and between ministers and ministers, Mr Benn said: "How can Labour MPs discharge their responsibilities unless they have access to information on which government policy is based?"

"It is no good being a rubber stamp or a fan club for the Government." MPs should be part of the decision-making process.

On the flow of information between the Government and the Labour movement, Mr Benn said, one had to be watchful to ensure that the partnership worked openly. "We do not want our policies to emerge like the Pope's choice in the Sistine Chapel by smoke coming from a chimney telling us that the alternative economic strategy has perished in the fire."

Print unions expected to set pay target of 20 per cent

By Paul Roulledge and Christopher Thomas

Leaders of 27,000 printing trade workers employed on national newspapers in London and Manchester are meeting in Brighton today to discuss the shape of a wage claim to be put forward on October 1. They are expected to decide on a target of about 20 per cent, possibly with a minimum rise of about £10 a week for lower-paid production workers.

The largest union in the printing industry, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat), has instructed its members not to abide by the TUC's 12-month rule for intervals between settlements.

The decision by the Sogat executive does not affect negotiations in the national newspaper industry but it is certain to lead to a big claim for 170,000 workers in the general printing and provincial newspaper industry many months before they are due for an increase next April.

Another attack on wage restraint will be launched tomorrow by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs.

The union, led by Mr Clive Jenkins, is prepared to accept a phase two settlement for 22,000 staff employed by ICI that was due on June 1 if the company agrees to an "added value" productivity deal that passes on to employees the cash benefits of increased productivity. Union officials expect the company to agree to the deal.

The National Union of Journalists yesterday approved a pay strategy for Fleet Street

journalists in a decision that is bound to upset the TUC.

The union's National Newspapers and Agencies' Industrial Council, which has overall authority for Fleet Street journalists' negotiations, voted eight to two, with one abstention, for a motion authorizing individual office claims that complied with last year's annual conference decision for a pleasant return to collective bargaining.

That means that any house claim that challenges the TUC's 12-month rule will not be blocked by the union's house agreements panel, which under the constitution has to approve all such claims.

National newspaper journalists were due to settle for a maximum of £4 a week under phase two on July 1, but delayed a deal in the hope of doing better in an atmosphere of free collective bargaining.

Despite warning in private that the union was implicitly allowing negotiations to move to a level for rises that would defy last month's conference decision on the 12-month rule.

The Newspapers Publishers Association (NPA) decided yesterday to tell the union that the journalists must accept a phase two agreement from July 1. There is further confusion because the NPA, which represents nearly all national newspapers, want talks at national rather than local management-chapel level.

Institute claim: The Institute of Journalists said last night that it intended to demand a 33 per cent cut across the board for journalists on provincial newspapers (the Press Association reports).

Police 'should be higher in national wage scale'

By a Staff Reporter

and should cooperate with social welfare departments in dealing with national youth problems could help to coordinate such work.

Mr Michael Jones, the author, gives a warning that prolonged social and economic hardship created by unemployment among ethnic groups and the housing crisis could lead to increased violence and lawlessness unless action is taken.

Politics Today: Combating Crime (Conservative Central Office, 32 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3RH, 50p).

Mr Douglas Hoyle, Labour MP for Nelson and Colne, who is also president of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, said: "I am glad that Mr Jones has stressed he is talking about all political parties standing. It is the Conservative Party because the need for a clean-up there has been present throughout the century."

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, called for a royal commission on parliamentary procedures and the role of MPs.

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Commission may be given more new town assets

From Our Parliamentary Staff

Brighton

The commercial and industrial assets of the new town corporations are likely to be transferred to the New Towns Commission, which would have a considerably different role in the future.

Mr Shore, Secretary of State for the Environment, said in Brighton last night that his department was still thinking out the basis for the transfer of those assets, but that at present for "pretty strong managerial reasons" and because the profitability of the assets should be available to the public purse, the short-term remedy and a solution for some time to come should be a transfer to the New Towns Commission.

That did not close the matter, and to reconcile the natural desire of local authorities to have an element of control over the industrial and commercial assets in their areas was something they would have to turn their minds to.

Mr Shore was speaking at a meeting organized by the new towns subcommittee of the Parliamentary Labour Party. Later, in reply to questions,

Mr Shore also disclosed during the meeting that his department was considering an application for planning permission from Peterlee New Town Corporation, Co Durham, where housing is virtually complete, for more land for industrial development.

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Tories added to call for 'clean-up'

Mr Jack Jones, who has called for new standards of political probity and a clean-up of the Labour Party, said yesterday that he would be joined by Conservative politicians in his strictures.

The leader of the Transport and General Workers' Union said on Sunday that he was disgusted with some of the things disclosed in the papers. He explained that he had in mind reports about the Pease Property Corporation, but not only Pease.

Mr Jones also spoke about the "big houses some people live in. As I said, whether he is Mr Hesley, the Chancellor of the Exchequer in mind, Mr Jones replied: "You can come to your own conclusion about that."

Yesterday he added: "I was referring to Conservative politicians, too." But he declined to explain further.

Meanwhile Mrs. Gwynne Woodcock, Labour MP for Croydon, spoke in defence of Lord Murray, a former MP who was given a £10,000 loan by Pease in 1968, a year in which the company was in liquidation.

Mrs. Woodcock said: "Those of us who know about Murray know that he would never in any circumstances do anything underhand or indefensible."

"Provided no trade union leader has ever received an interest-free or low-interest loan by his home and has never benefited in any way from support from an outside source, then of course, they are free to criticize."

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WEST EUROPE

Storm over arrest in Paris of Baader-Meinhof lawyer

From Ian Murray
Paris, Oct 3

A storm of protest is growing in left-wing French legal circles over the arrest of Herr Klaus Croissant, the Baader-Meinhof defence lawyer, in Paris on Friday to answer an extradition warrant issued by the court of appeal in Stuttgart on July 15.

Since Herr Croissant slipped out of West Germany into France he had been keeping his whereabouts a secret, although he gave several interviews to journalists put in touch with him by contacts. It was after one of these interviews on Friday at a flat in the Avenue du Général Leclerc that he was arrested. The police had apparently followed him there and stopped him as he came out.

On Saturday two 40-year-old women, Mlle Hélène Châtelain, an actress and film director, and Mlle Marie-Joséphine Sinat, a petrochemical engineer, were arrested and charged with harbouring Herr Croissant. Mlle Châtelain is the tenant of the flat and Mlle Sinat had arranged the interview.

The protests against his arrest have come from several bodies with a respectable and left-wing legal background. In a statement they have drawn the French Government's attention to the political dimension of the affair.

A new West German law (hurriedly passed by Parliament last week) considers all lawyers who unreservedly defend terrorists as terrorists themselves, the statement claims. It calls this an attack against the basic rights of defence which are an essential protection of the rights of the individual.

If the Paris court of appeal, which will hear a defence application for the release of Herr Croissant on October 10, should agree to his extradition, the statement continues, this would constitute a new offence under French law, the offence of political defence. It would thus create a worrying precedent.

Herr Croissant has applied for political asylum and this is being considered by the French authorities. He was remanded in custody after making a brief appearance before the appeal court on Saturday. Extradition proceedings against him are expected to take some time.

Patricia Clough writes from Bonn: About 50 convicted and suspected terrorists are being held in complete isolation from the outside world under the new anti-terrorist law, which came into force yesterday.

They may not see or write to

their lawyers, receive or send mail, have access to radio, television, newspapers or periodicals or meet each other inside their prisons for a maximum of 30 days.

The law, criticized by its few opponents as an infringement of civil rights, was designed to cut off jailed terrorists from contact outside during the course of terrorist kidnappings and similar crimes. The authorities strongly suspect that such crimes may be organized by, or with the help of, terrorist leaders in prison and that sympathetic lawyers act as go-betweens.

It permits any Land government or, if several Länder are involved, the Federal Justice Minister to order the isolation if there is reason to believe that danger to the "life, safety and freedom of a person" can thus be avoided.

Drawn up hastily on the wave of alarm generated by the kidnapping of Dr. Hanns-Martin Schleyer a month ago today, the law was passed by both Houses of Parliament and signed by President Scheel in less than three days, a speed rarely achieved in the history of the present Parliament.

Four members of the Social Democrat-Liberal coalition voted against and 17 abstained in the Bundestag, the lower house, and the Government realized its embarrassment that the law had passed thanks to the support given it by the hard-line conservative Christian Democrats Opposition.

An amendment by the junior coalition party, the Free Democrats, to allow court-appointed lawyers to keep in touch with the prisoners and look after their interests during the isolation period failed.

The Nobel Prize-winning writer Heinrich Böll said at the weekend that West Germans "will be totally isolated, culturally, politically and spiritually, unless public opinion here does not make an about turn."

He was commenting in a radio interview on a raid on the home of one of his sons last week by police looking for the kidnappers of Dr. Schleyer. The raid, which followed an anonymous telephone call to police, was denounced by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* today as part of a campaign to defame and throw suspicion on left-wing writers.

An invitation to the writer Lutz Rieger to read from his works at Göttingen, near Stuttgart, was cancelled at the last minute after an illustrated magazine alleged that she sympathized with terrorists. The incident has provoked strong protests by the presidents of the West German PEN Club and the West German authors' union.

Mounting toll of murder and violence in Italy's south

Mafia's harsh rule supplants the state in Reggio Calabria

From Peter Nichols
Reggio Calabria, Oct 3

With 51 recorded murders since the beginning of the year, nine kidnappings, about 300 violent attacks and at least 200 wanted men known to be at large, violence in Reggio Calabria province is beginning to be seen as a national problem.

The Communists and Socialists are calling for a parliamentary debate on Calabria. In the phrase of a high official, the state's authority in this unhappy region is "about zero". The regional administration got off to a disastrous start seven years ago when the city of Reggio Calabria rose in revolt against the central Government's choice of another Calabrian city, Catanzaro, as regional capital.

The region has not recovered from that beginning. A few weeks ago, disgraced forestry workers wrecked the office of the regional administration's chairman.

Above all in terms of immediate and future danger, young people, including many with higher education, will have great difficulty in finding work unless they agree to join the one concern which is prospering in Calabria. They must become killers or informants for the new Mafia.

Calabria has never in its frequently violent history suffered anything comparable to its modern Mafia. The old organization, now defeated by

more modern groups, was essentially rustic and regarded as a rather backward distant cousin of the Sicilian Mafia. Now, however, the Calabrian Mafia is a power in its own right.

Unlike the state, it has a taxation system which works without flaw: protection money is paid to all levels of society. Earlier this year Signor Rocco Gatto, a miller in the town of Gioiosa Ionica, refused to pay protection money and said so in public. He was shot.

Shortly before, a Communist youth, aged 16, had been killed after speaking out against the Mafia during an election campaign.

In the Crotona area, the Mafia is said to have a highly prosperous game traffic; elsewhere, apart from cigarettes and drugs, it is said to be deep in diamond smuggling. Industrial projects such as the ill-conceived steel mill at Gioia Tauro, on which the equivalent of £200m has already been spent, provide a constant supply of money. The Mafia is said to control tendering down to the level of individuals who own a single lorry.

Calabria is already one of Italy's poorest regions and one of the few in which the Mafia is to hold back economic expansion. Cases are known of people with a few thousand pounds to invest which they are afraid to use because they do not know what share the Mafia will demand.

The efficiency of the Mafia is clearly one of its attractions for young people. The effect of the relationship between criminal violence and youth is now being seen in national terms.

First, there is the possible threat of another Calabrian uprising. As a Calabrian priest says: "If somebody chooses to blow on the ashes, they will take fire."

The second consideration is that the Mafia is seen by some in Calabria as simply the extreme symptom of a national sickness. Where corruption, petty corruption and the client system are general, the particular violence of Calabria's troubles can look almost natural.

Finally, and probably most important, on the national level, is the reinforcement that southern youth is providing for violence in northern and central Italy. Many of the most violent students in northern universities and in Rome are said to come from the south.

These young people are reasonably contained while they remain in the south. When they head north and the educational barriers are removed, they feel more deeply and react more readily to the unpleasant fact that the economic future holds little or nothing for them.

A Calabrian politician says: "Student violence elsewhere in the country will not be stopped until the problem has been met here."

New Bill to entitle Spaniards to legal aid

From Our Own Correspondent
Madrid, Oct 3

The Spanish Government today introduced a Bill to give Spaniards the right to demand the presence of a lawyer as soon as they are arrested by the police and before they are charged.

At the same time the Government submitted to the Cortes its proposal for a new law on amnesty. The amnesty question is likely to attempt by the Centre Democratic Union (UCD), the party of Señor Suárez, the Prime Minister, to win the support of the Basque and Catalan home-rule block in Parliament on other issues.

A political system can only be consolidated when it offers alternatives. Furthermore it is not possible because neither the UCD nor the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Workers' Party, the principal parliamentary opposition) wants it.

They also realize that their own unity is still too fragile to enable them to indulge in speculation about a redistribution of the cards in the political game and the emergence, at some future date, of an alternative centre-left majority in the country.

The Gentist strategy, which was based on the solidity of the coalition between Socialists and Communists, has been thrown badly off balance by their antagonism.

President Giscard d'Estaing, whose analysis of the political situation has been vindicated by the rift in the Union of the Left, has carefully refrained from comment and has recommended the greatest discretion to his ministers. He remains above the fray and waits for the time when it may be possible to prepare the ground for the realization of his dream of the new centre-left majority.

OVERSEAS
Israel pins hopes on Dayan-Carter talks

From Michael Horsey
Jerusalem, Oct 3

Israel, deeply depressed by what it regards as the deplorable shift of American sympathy towards the Arabs, played in yesterday's joint United States-Soviet statement on the Middle East, hopes Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, can reverse the trend at a meeting with President Carter in Washington on Wednesday.

Government sources here think that if Mr Carter fails to take heed of the Israeli viewpoint, the Palestinian issue, efforts to resume the Middle East peace conference in Geneva are doomed.

The joint statement calls for a settlement ensuring the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. A formula which Israel fears could lead to the establishment of an independent state ruled by the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Israeli thinking is turning towards the prospect of a conference with the United States and how Israel might withstand American pressure. The general view is that while Israel can expect substantial political pressure, Washington would expect Israel to withstand economic or military aid.

Government circles have raised the possibility of the formation of a national government. However the idea has been rejected by the Labour Opposition, which is writing a time in blaming Mr Begin's government for the deterioration in American sympathy.

The Israeli Prime Minister, who has been in hospital since Friday suffering from a cold, was said to be in "good condition" although suffering from inflammation of the heart lining, possibly due to excessive physical effort. Mr Begin, aged 64, is expected to leave hospital on Wednesday, in time to chair a special Cabinet

meeting which is expected to follow Wednesday's talks with Mr Dayan and President Carter.

There is no doubt that the Government regards the United States-Soviet statement as a betrayal by the American Administration of Israel's interests—probably, it is believed, in return for deals over areas, for instance, for Arab oil supplies and Soviet concessions in the strategic oil-rich Persian Gulf.

The Israeli view is that the United States has clearly indicated that if it cannot persuade the Arabs to make any concessions then it must force concessions on the Israelis.

It is argued that the joint statement marks the formal start of a separate Palestinian commitment to the United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 as the sole basis for a negotiated Geneva conference.

Israel says it has made practical concessions in the form of a statement in the form of a separate Palestinian conference, accepting the idea of a Jordanian delegation. However, it is prepared to take any country that could lead to the establishment of a separate Palestinian state.

"If the United States insist on independent Palestinian representation at Geneva, it is all lost," an Israeli official says today.

Independent Palestinian attendance at the conference could only mean, according to Israel, either a breakdown of the conference or the establishment of a separate Palestinian state.

Cairo, Oct 3—President Sadat of Egypt today discussed a joint American-Soviet statement with Mr Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO. Earlier Egyptian and Palestinian officials had expressed a warm welcome to the statement.

Leading article, page 1

Former police chief leaves jail to fly home

From Our Own Correspondent
Hong Kong, Oct 3

Mr Peter Godber, a former chief superintendent of the Hong Kong police force, left by air for England today after serving 31 months in jail. He has a house in Sussex.

He refused to talk to the 30 reporters pressed against police barricades outside the hilltop prison of Siu-Lan when he walked out to freedom this morning. Described as a model prisoner, he was released 17 months after being sentenced to 20 months for conspiracy to defraud.

Mr Godber was jailed in 1975 for corruptly accepting 25,000 Hong Kong dollars (about £2,800) from a Chinese police officer for helping him to get a senior posting and for related conspiracy—Reuters.

New intensity in disarmament talks at Geneva

From Our Own Correspondent
Geneva, Oct 3

With the resumption today of talks on the United States, Britain and Russia on comprehensive test ban, disarmament negotiations have attained an unprecedented intensity.

One set of talks, on progress said to be satisfactory, is on prohibiting chemical weapons. Another is banning radiological weapons. Most important of all is the strategic arms limitation negotiations, now returned to the delegations here for some form of secondary issues.

Several attempts have been made to replace the one that expired today.

US Senate in tug of war over price of gas

From David Cross
Washington, Oct 3

Senators today began a third week of wrangling over one of the most controversial of President Carter's energy conservation programmes, the future level of natural gas prices.

The long and confused debate, which has already led to the first all-night sitting by Senators since the early 1950s, has developed into a tug of war between supporters and opponents of Mr Carter's suggestion that existing price limits should be continued and in some cases extended.

Opponents of the plan, many of them representing producer states, are calling for the price limits to be lifted so that the market can determine the price of natural gas. They say that the price of natural gas has already risen by 500 per cent over the past

six years, and that it indicates his way consumers will have to pay an extra \$70,000 (£40,000) to heat their homes in the middle of the next decade.

His speech seems to have little impact on Senate opponents, who have been persistently lobbied by representatives of the oil and gas industry. Indeed, support for the President appears to be waning as the debate drags on.

Nevertheless, Senator James Abourezk of South Dakota, who has so far succeeded in preventing the issue from going to a vote by tabling hundreds of amendments, each of which has to be cleared by a time-consuming roll call.

Several attempts have been made to end the filibuster, but they have all failed. The latest would allow the federal regulatory prices to continue temporarily, albeit at high levels, until at present 30 per cent of those supporting Mr Abourezk and his supporters.

Dr Soares argues case for an enlarged Community

From Michael Horsey
Lisbon, Oct 3

The view that further enlargement of the EEC must necessarily lead to its becoming a more loosely knit organisation was challenged today by Dr Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, in a speech to the College of Europe in Brussels.

It was false, he suggested, to argue that the EEC must choose between "enlargement" and "deepening", that is, greater institutional integration. On the contrary, one was inconceivable without the other, he said.

It is only in an economically and politically solid and coherent Community that Portugal and, I am sure, the other candidate countries as well, will wish to accede," he said. In addition to Portugal, Greece and Spain have also applied to join the EEC.

Dr Soares said he welcomed the European Commission's

unannounced intention of putting forward new proposals on economic and monetary union. Portugal accepted the "evolution" that economic and monetary union implied.

Dr Soares also appeared to be arguing in favour of some kind of restructuring of Portugal's economy with the help of the EEC. "We believe it is in our interest, as well as in the Community's, to begin progressively to tackle the problems so as to make our assimilation into the institutions and mechanisms of the community as swift and as harmonious as possible," he said.

He also emphasized the political importance of EEC membership to Portugal. Membership was "an indispensable condition for which we wish to provide a solid bulwark for our recently established democratic institutions and the irreversible path for a destiny that we wish to share," he said.

Austria will tax those passing through by road

From Our Own Correspondent
Vienna, Oct 3

Austria is to introduce a transit tax on all those passing through the country by road. It is one of many new levies, taxes and austerity measures announced today after the ruling Socialist Party won convincingly in the Burgenland state election yesterday.

Among the measures aimed at balancing the budget is a value-added luxury tax of 30 per cent extending as far as high fidelity stereo sets and car radios, as well as all new cars.

The new transit levy will apply from the middle of next year, but its size has not been announced.

Rome police use tear gas after leftist's funeral

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Oct 3

Riot police fired tear gas grenades today to disperse thousands of leftists who tried to attack a favourite of the funeral of a murdered left-winger.

The leftists, with handkerchiefs tied over their faces in preparation for a tear-gas attack, left the funeral of Walter Rossi, aged 20, who was shot on Friday night by neo-fascists, and went to a hill used by right-wingers for meetings.

Six armoured lorries loaded with police barred their way and opened fire with tear gas. Several people were trampled by the fleeing crowd.—Reuters.

Synod told of potential in African Christianity

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Oct 3

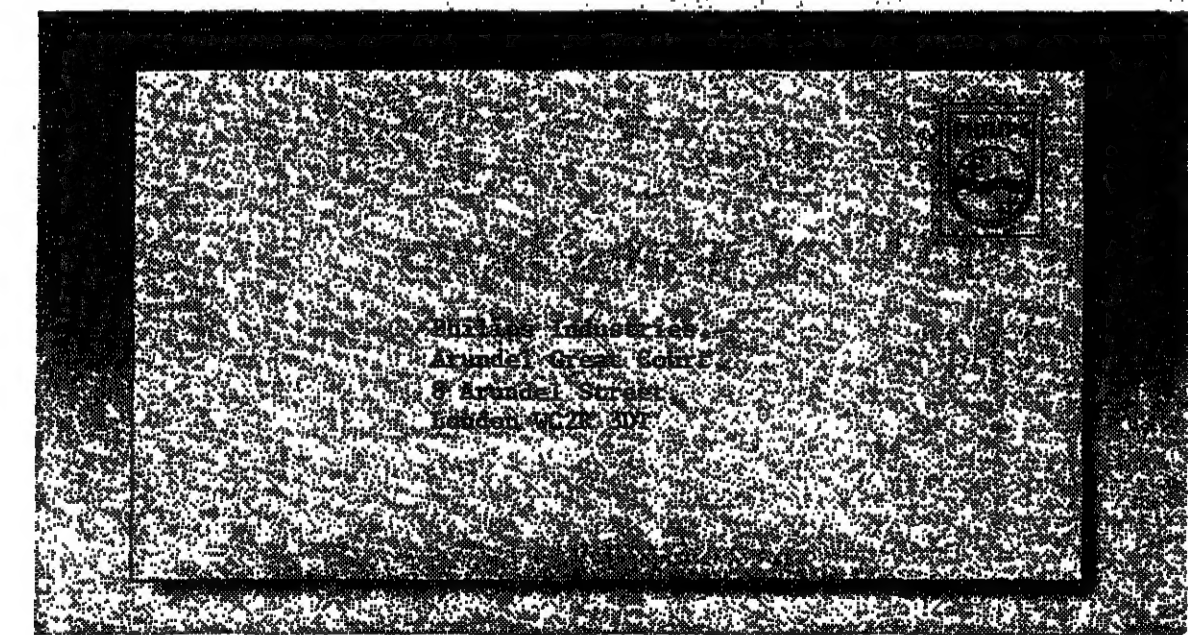
The potential weight of African Christianity in the future of the Roman Catholic Church, one of the Pope's favourite hopes, was strongly expressed today by Cardinal Oranga, Archbishop of Nairobi. "We must," he said, "take ourselves seriously."

The Cardinal was one of 19 speakers this morning at the Vatican's International Synod of Bishops. He said that because religion and culture in Africa were never separated, the continent's cultures possessed "seeds of the word" that could make a tremendous

contribution to the universal church.

Before the second Vatican Council, the Cardinal said, African culture and religious heritage was seen as something to be set aside once evangelization had started. The Council had created a new and more dynamic image in which Christ was seen as the new sower who has already planted seed in Africa's cultural tradition, seeds that could produce flowers wherever sown.

Speaking on the synod's main subject of catechesis (instruction given to a new convert before baptism), he said the small Christian community as the proper basis for teaching and advancing Christianity.



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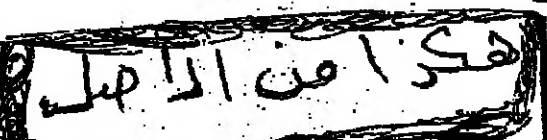
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moon, ending an era that began eight years ago with the first manned lunar landings; the decision was because of dwindling power reserves at the stations on the moon and budgetary limitations.—Reuter.

Moon experiments end
Houston, Oct. 3.—American scientists have shut off all remaining experiments on the moon, ending an era that began

cluding cosmonauts from other communist countries, were progressing well, Mr. Vladimir Shatalov, cosmonaut training chief, reported.—Reuter.

Houston, Oct. 3.—American scientists have shut off all remaining experiments on the moon, ending an era that began eight years ago with the first manned lunar landings; the decision was because of dwindling power reserves at the stations on the moon and budgetary

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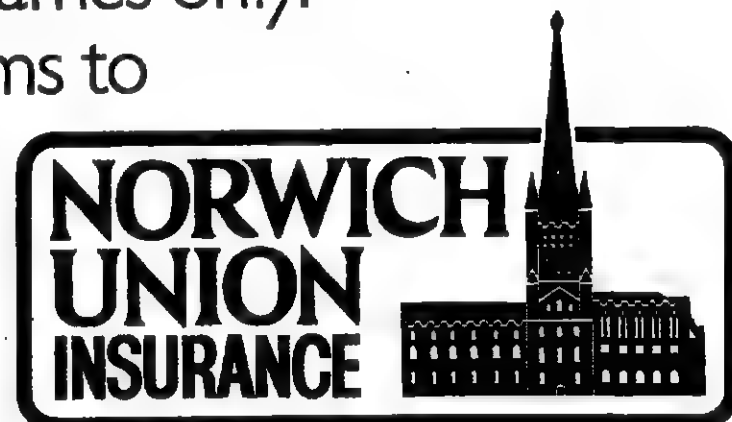
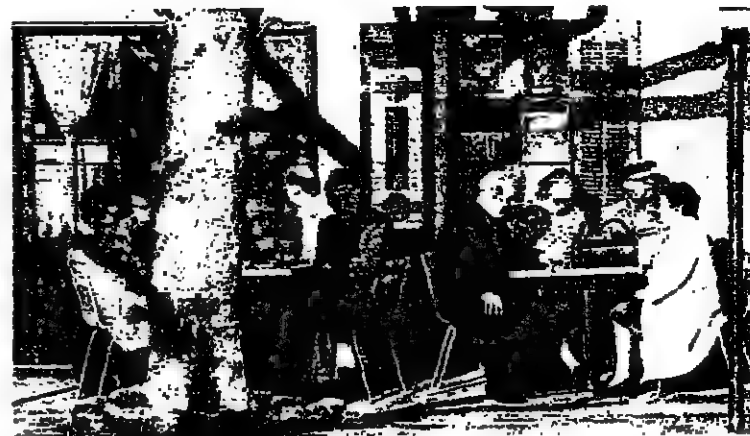
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Art Buyers' Guide

THE BURLINGTON MAGAZINE



OCTOBER 1977

MARILYN PERRY

J. B. WEIDEMAN

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Is the EEC's economic strategy working at long last?

As the Eurocrats drift back to their desks after the long summer vacation, and the 13 Commissioners return from their brainstorming session in the Ardennes, the economic prospects for the European Community suddenly begin to look good. For the first time in many months, one can sense a cautious optimism in the air.

Two things above all underlie this change of mood. The two sick economies, Italy and the United Kingdom, seem to be on the mend; and, in different ways, the communist parties of Italy and France are being boxed in by events. How real are these apparent changes, and what are the implications for the future of Europe?

The most remarkable change has been in the performance of the Italian economy. A year ago Italy had been all but written off by her partners as an incurable case. Economic stagnation, rampant inflation, political instability and social disintegration seemed to have compounded each other in an ungovernable land.

Today Italy's inflation rate is still too high, and the symptoms of social tension are still evident. But the flight of capital has stopped, unemployment is no longer rising, industrial production is moving up, and the balance of payments has swung round into surplus.

This recovery has not been achieved, as in the United Kingdom, by external factors such as North Sea oil. What has happened is that an unexpectedly strong and stable Christian Democrat government, stimulated by the IMF, has succeeded in carrying through a programme of internal deflation which has dampened down imports and encouraged exports, and thereby restored a measure of confidence to the demoralized business sector.

This programme of recovery has been carried through with the active support of the communists, whose assistance has enabled Italy to operate its own version of the "social contract". A year ago it looked as if the rise to power of the Italian Communist Party was unstoppable. Today the communists give all the appearance of a party blocked on the threshold of power, and uncertain how to prevent their support from eroding; unable to face the consequences of denying their support to the government, yet conscious of the fact that if the policy succeeds it is the Christian Democrats who will benefit, while the communists share the odium for the unpopular measures still needed.

The internal contradictions of Eurocommunism are beginning to show up, not only in Italy, but also in the last few weeks in France. It has been evident for some time that the greatest threat to France's economic recovery is the communist party's only hope of access to power is as the junior partner of the socialists.

So either way it seems that the French communists are on a loser in their current bid to remove the apparatus of exchange controls.



Mr. Roy Jenkins: safeguarding democracy

publicly to force their socialist partners to swing further left, and their stance is only explicable as a desperate move to stop or slow down what they see as a rightward trend towards the centre on the part of M. Mitterand. In the event their confrontational tactics could be counter-productive.

Compared with France or Italy, events in the United Kingdom have been less surprising—but none the less significant. Commentators have been predicting for some time that the rate of inflation would start to decline this autumn, and that from henceforth the building up of North Sea oil would swing the balance of payments into surplus. These two things have duly happened, but they have been accompanied by a third which was less predictable—a massive inflow of capital, deriving largely from fears about the dollar.

The net result has been to turn sterling quite rapidly from a weak to a strong currency. Over the next year or so the policy debates surrounding sterling will be whether to allow it to float up to its "natural" level, which would reduce import costs and so help to combat inflation—or whether to hold it down, thus keeping British manufacturing exports competitive in world markets. It is a novel choice for Britain's policy-makers, and at present there are signs of hesitation between the two courses.

Removing the apparatus of exchange controls

What is remarkable about the debate so far is that the European dimension has hardly been mentioned. Yet from her new-found position of strength the United Kingdom could embrace her European credentials in at least two ways.

The first way would be to remove the apparatus of exchange controls which are still being maintained in defiance of the Rome Treaty. The second would be to offer to put sterling back into the ECU currency "basket" at the current exchange rate—a rate which in fact undervalues the pound, thus giving us a competitive trade advantage vis-à-vis our EEC partners.

Both of these moves would be seen as positive contributions to European integration, and thus as potential bargaining

ing counters to be cashed, perhaps, in changes to the common agricultural policy. Yet they are contributions which would cost Britain little or nothing so long as North Sea oil continues to underpin our currency.

And by averting the pressure which would otherwise develop to force up the sterling exchange rate, they would help the manufacturing sector, which otherwise could find its competitive edge blunted.

In the last quarter-century the United Kingdom's production costs have risen on average 2 per cent per annum faster than our main overseas competitors. This faster rate of inflation has been almost exactly matched by the decline in the sterling exchange rate over the same period. One would expect from this figure that our competitiveness in world markets would have been roughly preserved.

In fact, over this period there has been a sharp decline in our net trade balance, which cannot be fully explained by cost and price movements. Between 1953 and 1976 the share of imports in our total domestic consumption of manufactured goods rose from 25 per cent to 33 per cent, while the share of exports in our total production of manufactures rose over the same period from 41 per cent to 62 per cent.

The United Kingdom is still a net exporter of manufactures, but only just. Since it is this sector which provides a large proportion of the nation's jobs, it is important that its interests should be protected as we build up our primary and service sectors.

These are presumably the kind of policy options which the Government is canvassing in its forthcoming Green Paper on the implications of North Sea oil. It is to be hoped that in this analysis the Government does not lose sight of the fact that our economy, for good or ill, is a part of the European Community, and our strategy should be linked to the overall strategy of Europe's economic recovery.

For that strategy now begins to look, for the first time in a long while, reasonably credible. The relaxation measures announced by the West German government, as a response to mounting pressures from the other EEC countries and elsewhere, may or may not prove adequate. But they are at least a positive step, and they could provide the stimulus for a renewed attempt by the European Council to concert moves towards economic stability and recovery, building on the remarkable changes outlined above in the major EEC economies.

No doubt Mr. Jenkins and his fellow-Commissioners, during their Ardennes weekend, mulled over the desirability of a Commission initiative in this field. Certainly they showed awareness of the link between economic and political stability. One of their main decisions was to adopt the proposal, first mooted in this column, that all EEC members, present and prospective, be required to pledge themselves to maintain democratic regimes.

It is no accident that the apparent stagnation of Eurocommunism coincides with economic recovery in western Europe. Confidence is reviving, and the Community's businessmen need to catch the rising tide.

Michael Shanks

Charge by Arthur Seldon, featured recently on this page, is available from Maurice Temple Smith in paperback at £2.50. There is also a limited number in hardback at £7.50.

A show of hands that will change the power structure of Russia

The Supreme Soviet is about to count noses, or at least self-affirmation. Today in Moscow its members begin discussing the new Soviet constitution that appeared in draft form on June 4. They will spend the next day or two making a few cosmetic adjustments, then they will raise their hands to approve it. The voting will be unanimous. It always is.

The members will then be in a strange position. They will still belong to a legislature recognised internationally by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and confirmed in the new constitution as "the highest organ of state power in the USSR". They have, after all, gone through the formality of being elected by the Soviet people. But by approving Article 6 of the new constitution they will for the first time recognise that they are under the legal control of a totally separate body—the Communist Party—whose members and leaders, a small percentage of the population, are elected by each other, not by the people as a whole, not even in theory.

So even if they remain, as they were in the 1936 constitution, "the highest organ of state power" they will no longer be "the controlling force in Soviet society". A role now assigned to the Party. Nor will they decide the general line of society's development or the internal and external policy of the Soviet Union. The new constitution, in effect, reduces the Supreme Soviet to the level of an executive council. It will receive edicts from on high, discuss them in com-

mittee and put them into legal form. But in spite of its grand title, it will from now on have no more power to decide policy than does the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Thus, on one level this is no more than a dot on an "i": a formal acceptance of a situation which has always existed. But constitutionally it is a coup d'état, a forced handover of power by the people's representatives to a self-electing oligarchy. And this confusion over the role of the Supreme Soviet is only one of a range of self-contradictions in the new document, which leads one to wonder why it was composed in the first place.

For instance, a new chapter on foreign policy pledges the Soviet Union to peaceful co-existence and non-interference in other countries' internal affairs. It repeats word for word many of the noble phrases of the Helsinki Final Act. But it also binds the nation to "strengthening the position of world socialism and supporting the struggle of peoples for national liberation". It also mentions "comradely mutual assistance" to other socialist countries, an idea which contradicts the very essence of non-interference. And which, Czechoslovakia remembers from 1968, So what does the constitution mean? Does it commit Russia to peace and consolidation or to expansion?

Again, all citizens are guaranteed freedom of speech, press, assembly, meetings, street processions and demonstrations. They have the right

to profess any religion and perform religious rites. They are guaranteed a mass of social benefits, including the right to work, which, as Soviet officials often point out, is not available to westerners. Amazingly, the privacy of correspondence and telephone conversations is protected by law.

But a closer look shows that this rosy picture is not what it at first seems. Each article on human rights carries a qualifying phrase. Freedom of expression is given for "the purpose of strengthening the socialist system". The system of schooling "shall serve communist education". Scientific facilities are made available "for communist construction". In other words, anyone who says or writes something for some other purpose is in clear violation, even foreigners, who are now obliged to observe the constitution as well as Soviet laws. It remains to be seen whether it will be involved against foreign correspondents in Moscow.

In case any doubts remain on this point, there is the catch-all sentence, "The enjoyment of rights and freedoms shall be inseparable from the fulfilment of the duties of citizens". It includes the duty "to respect the rules of socialist behaviour" and "to safeguard the interests of the Soviet state". It means that a non-socialist, let alone an anti-socialist, is not entitled to any rights at all. It legitimizes, for instance, the dismissal from work of a Jew who applies to emigrate. He has not fulfilled

his duties as a Soviet citizen and therefore he is deprived of rights, including social security and the right to work.

From now on all religious believers will be at risk, whether or not they are socialists. In the 1936 constitution there was the right to freedom of religious and anti-religious propaganda, but the new document guarantees only the latter. Since all education must be along communist lines and parents are obliged to raise their children as "working members of socialist society", there are fears that religious instruction will be stamped out. But also that religious parents may have their children taken from them. There have already been a few cases of this happening, as is shown in Document No. 1 of the Helsinki Monitoring Group in Moscow.

Active dissidents are under even greater attack. Stalin's 1936 constitution gave all the normal citizens' rights without qualification. Of course it was never observed, but after Stalin died it was useful to those who tried to bring legality and civilization into Soviet life. "Respect your own constitution" was the slogan of those days. Reformers as well as critics of the constitution were able to use the constitution to bring about change. Now they will not be able to.

Vladimir Bakovsky says: "The 1936 constitution gave dissidents a clear-cut position on human rights. They could remain citizens of the Soviet Union and it was the republics carried out against them that were unconstitutional. The new

document makes it legally impossible for those citizens who are non-communists by conviction to retain their citizenship." He therefore intends to renounce his citizenship as soon as the new constitution is ratified, and no "other" many others inside and outside Russia will follow his example.

On one level the constitution can be seen as a mere tidying-up operation. The Party has always told the Supreme Soviet what to do. It will continue to do so, only now it will do so in accordance with the constitution. Freedom of the press and assembly has always been restricted to communists and telephones have always been tapped. From now on it will be legal.

It is also a triumph for the ultra-conservatives of the Soviet leadership. The constitution of the Soviet Union is now laid down for years to come, not only the limits of personal freedom, but even such details as social benefits and the length of the working week. Reformers at the top, who they appear will find it hard to make headway. The constitution will be used to keep them down.

All this, the document has accomplished, even preserving certain democratic phrases which will deceive many casual readers. It will relieve, in Brezhnev and his colleagues, the embarrassment of Stalin's liberal constitution at a time when they are busy with the unexpected crises of Helsinki which are beginning today.

Nicholas Bethel

Bernard Levin

There was an old Bishop of Birmingham...

A bishop may be a supporter of Concorde or an opponent thereof, just as he may be a collector of matchbox-labels or allergic to mint sauce, but none of these things will affect his ability to exercise his ghostly functions

passage in St Matthew, in which Christ, responding to the Last Supper to the toast of "The Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of Birmingham", observes: "He that dipeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me, probably by encouraging the unrestricted import of Japanese motor cars"; but they insist that it is not suitable material for the Bishopric of Birmingham.

As I have had occasion to say before, when venturing to dip a toe into the turbulent waters of Christian controversy, an agnostic Jew or mixed Bessarabian and Lithuanian descent is perhaps not the ideal champion of Anglican orthodoxy, or for that matter the best possible critic of it. I am emboldened to participate in this particular debate, however, first by the fact that Bishop Montefiore was born, like me, into the Hebrew persuasion (though I believe a rather more soigné corner of it), and second by my uneasy conviction that if I don't nobody else will.

The question is: ought a bishop to be a devoted advocate of increased production in the factories of his diocese, irrespective of the nature of the goods produced, and ought he to be barred from enthronement if he thinks that the goods in question, so far from providing the closest possible earthly approximation to the Kingdom of Heaven, fall most decidedly within the province of the devil and all his works?

I could point out, though I agree that it would not be a

conclusive argument, that if the bishop's critics were to press their case a little too far they might find themselves insisting that their pastor should give his episcopal blessing to those Birmingham concerns which turn a penny at the expense of afflicting one way or the other a substantial number of exceptionally ugly brass ashtrays stamped "Made in Benares" on the underside of the rim. But there is a rather more fundamental point which seems to have escaped those who think a bishop should be in favour of Concorde if it brings employment and prosperity to the city over the spiritual life of which he is partly by the workings of the Apostolic Succession and partly by those of the Crown Appointments Commission, appointed to preside. It is that the Bishop of Birmingham is a very considerable difference between Jesus Christ and Mr. Gerald Kaufman, and that it does not lie only in their respective spiritual qualities, though there may be substantial differences in this respect, but also in the fact that the functions allotted to them by history are quite distinct.

Now Mr. Kaufman, I am sure, is well aware of this, and would never think of suggesting that Bishop Montefiore is unworthy of promotion in the Anglican hierarchy because of his views on Concorde. Unfortunately, not all those with whom I share the closest possible earthly approximation to the Kingdom of Heaven fall most decidedly within the province of the devil and all his works.

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undertaken at the time, from makers of general statements. Little know the trouble that it would cause to the community. But since there is now no way to settle the point other than waiting for the Second Coming and asking for enlightenment, I think Bishop Montefiore is entitled to hold that Concorde is a good thing, without thereby rendering himself ineligible to serve as bishop to a city where they think that it is. For all I know, the Bishop of Birmingham is a very considerable difference between Jesus Christ and Mr. Gerald Kaufman, and that it does not lie only in their respective spiritual qualities, though there may be substantial differences in this respect, but also in the fact that the functions allotted to them by history are quite distinct.

And it is, after all, for the exercise of his ghostly functions that a bishop is appointed. That, at any rate, has been the general view until now, and if Birmingham wants a public relations officer for the aerospace industry, it is very unseemly of Birmingham to expect him to trouble the job with that of their bishop, and not much less so to declare him unfit to be their bishop at all. If he won't, and one of the bishop's critics in this matter has added a further reason for dismay at such an appointment: it is that "he would carry out his name—Birmingham". I suppose it could be argued that a bishop carrying the lesser power of the Bishop of Concorde should not be so minded that he should carry a rather more important form of imprimatur if his office bears the name of England's second city, but again, I cannot help feeling that he has got to Birmingham to fry and that Birmingham's chromium plating ought not to take priority over the saving of souls.

"Reader unto Caesar," said one of the principal figures in this dispute, "the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." It is a pity that no specific allocation of Concorde into one or the other of those categories was

William Rees-Mogg tomorrow concludes his analysis of the equation of British poverty

Very few signs of the good life from Labour's men at the top

With the warning of Jack Jones that life at the top in the Labour Party had become too good, I spent most of yesterday diligently seeking evidence of this fact. None, sadly, was to be found in Brighton.

Whatever the arguments about expensive houses for senior ministers, I am able to report that Denis Healey confined himself, in the bar of the Grand Hotel, to a simple (and rather flat looking) pint of bitter. Other ministers took tomato juice (which may or may not have been laced with vodka) though there seems little evidence of Havana cigars and the better make of champagne at the headquarters hotel.

The great difference between the Labour conference this week and the Liberal Assembly last is the degree of security imposed by the police. Where last week Clement Freud and his bloodhounds could have slipped easily past any policeman who might have been on duty, yesterday the police presence was such that even if you had disguised yourself as one of their Alsatians, I am sure you would have been spotted.

The best thing, from the viewpoint of tired and emotional conference reporters, is the "Diary of Events" which sets

out day by day and hour by hour the myriad of fringe meetings. Tomorrow night there will be a clash between two important parties when the Labour Campaign for Gay Rights holds for Britain's policy-makers, and Queen's Hotel and the National Union of Labour Organizers holds its Scots night in the Trades and Labour Club.

As the Scots night offers cheaper entry (though not a rather flat looking pint of bitter, I know which I shall be attending).

After hearing Mr. Healey's speech to the conference, I was a little worried to note that last night there was a public meeting at the Metropole Hotel, when the Campaign for a Competitive Exchange Rate examined the subject "Is economic recovery possible?" I was glad to note that admission was free.

And so back to the good life. Anyone who peruses the 22-page Diary of Events will see that many more of the discussions are described as "tea meetings" than major binges of an alcoholic variety and I suspect that Mr. Jones is forgetting that even trade unions have been known to provide cars and easy mortgages for members of their staff. The Labour Party, I confidently record, is not yet corrupt.

The centenary dinner of the International Food and Wine Society was held in London at the weekend, because though members thought English cooking deserved more kudos. But all the cooks at the Reform Club were foreign.

The night Clem made them wait

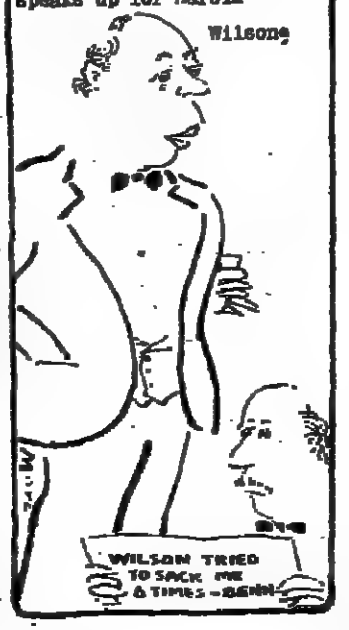
Over a plate of fish and chips at Brighton last week Chris Mayhew, the former Labour minister (now prospective Liberal candidate for Bath) told me some splendid anecdotes about his great hero, Clem Attlee.

When, in 1946, the then prime minister sent for the young MP and said that he intended to make him under secretary of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mayhew protested that he was totally unversed in this sphere. "Nonsense," said Attlee. "Besides, Ernie (Bevin) has specifically asked for you. Anyway, I do like appointing Halleys to positions of prominence—just look at my list of air vice marshals."

Then there was the occasion of a Chequers dinner party which showed Attlee's great sensitivity. It was a grand gathering of ministers and wives and an additional Felicity Attlee had a young school friend to stay.

After preprandial drinks,

Someone, I see, still speaks up for Harold Wilson



everyone was seated at the dinner table when Attlee noticed that Felicity's friend had not come down. He asked his guests to retold their napkins and go back for more drinks in the drawing room. The girl eventually descended and the party moved into dinner, a beaming Attlee leading the child by her arm.

Pre-1066 and all that

Anglo-Saxon nationalists held their tribal feast near High Wycombe at the weekend. The English Companions, dedicated to the view that history ended rather than started in 1066, celebrated the fourteen hundredth anniversary of the expansion of England: the date when the Anglo-Saxons over the Woden-born daughter of the House of Cerdic, the ancient royal house of Wessex.

Despite their warlike appearance, the companions are a peaceful lot, except on the subject of putting the historical record straight. Melicolum Dunstall, a Kent art teacher, and the society's Raldre (chairman), choked on his swans' flesh (port, to you as he recalled: "A thousand years is the eleven hundredth anniversary of the Battle of Edington, at which Alfred defeated the Danes and saved England. We asked the Post Office for a commemorative stamp, as they issued one for 1066. They said the event was not important enough."

How to present a fair picture

Look at this symbol (logo in technical parlance) and tell me whether it says anything to you about fishing or shooting. Of course it doesn't. You will understand, then, why at a press conference yesterday in connection with next year's London Equestrian Spring Fair at Epsom Court at which not only horses but rod and gun will be spectacularly exploited, I asked why the fair's logo was wholly horsey.

My question, seemed more pertinent than the imperious after an Earl Court executive had explained that although two million ride in Britain, three million fish and one million shoot.

Another executive explained that the "concept" was loaded with the equestrian field, a summary that must have perplexed some of the visiting German pressmen who were the morning's special guests. I could not quarrel with this objective, given the inter-



national commercial and environmental propensities of horse riding, but I was only slightly mollified by it.

Remove from the logo the helpful but redundant chap on the right, replace him with a gunman, put the tree behind the horse, and you have a hopeful angler on the left and you have the whole country in an atmosphere at a stroke.

Perhaps, though, I am wrong to carp; perhaps everybody is

Little surprises Londoners, but the sight of a man in white overalls expertly pulling a trolley along a runway, raising a few eyebrows yesterday. He was last seen heading for the Arts Council headquarters.

Punk rock from first to last

As a respite from the old-time dancing of party conferences in Brighton, it was good to be taken at the weekend in the leggy Pop concert at Finsbury. It was my first (and last) visit to the Rainbow Theatre and indeed my last (to my regret) experience of punk rock live.

My escorts, both experienced in the world of pop, had warned me that it might be an evening of "punk rock". I was surprised how well behaved the audience was and, in a cockney way, how much I enjoyed the music.

Mr. Pop, who is 34, has some old-fashioned which he follows: heavy metal and one of the new bands which seemed to have a musical quality, unlike the run-of-the-mill punk rock that we hear on the radio. He is, as he is claimed, the father of "punk rock". He said I can say it: I should love to hear the music.

Mr. Grötsche is cross-eyed, too. The present object of

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Why integration in Ulster's schools is not as simple as it seems

"We, the Government, are in favour of integrated education, where there is a demand for it. But it is unrealistic to see integrated schooling as a way of solving the killing yesterday of a British soldier in the streets of Belfast." That is what Lord Melchett, the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, told a group of visiting English educational journalists last week.

There is an irritating tendency for the English on whirlwind tours of the province to look on integration of schools as a panacea for Ulster's troubles. They tend to overlook the immense practical problems of joining together two completely separate education systems, one for the Catholics and the other for the Protestants, run by separate, church-dominated school boards, and staffed by teachers trained in separate Protestant or Catholic colleges. Segregation exists for historical reasons and has merely been accentuated by the recent sectarian troubles.

At primary level and at the non-grammar school secondary level, Protestant children tend to go to the state "controlled" schools run by the five regional education and library boards, while Catholic children go to the "voluntary maintained" schools which are largely run by independent

Catholic school boards, though financed almost entirely by the state.

Most of the grammar schools, which cater for one third of the secondary school population, are also run by independent, church-dominated boards, which may be either Protestant or Catholic. Private independent schools are virtually unknown in Northern Ireland.

A few Catholics may be found in Protestant schools and vice versa, but this is discouraged by the Roman Catholic Church which has always, the world over, insisted on providing separate schooling for its children. It is not just a question of different religious education, but of provision for the whole moral formation of the child through both what is taught and how it is taught.

The Roman Catholic hierarchy in Northern Ireland is looking with particular concern at the current wave of permissiveness, progressive teaching methods and disciplinary problems in comprehensive schools "across the water". The Government's announcement in June that it is planning to end selection and introduce comprehensive schooling throughout the province has aroused fears that this will somehow entail the abolition of the Catholic voluntary schools. State control for some Catholics means preaching contraception, abor-

tion on demand, mixed marriages and divorce to children.

These are real fears and not to be dismissed lightly. But the inflexibility of the Catholic Church's attitude in Northern Ireland is sometimes difficult for the English to understand. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor, Dr. Philbin, for example, recently refused to confirm Catholic children who were attending a Protestant primary school.

A controlled (Protestant) comprehensive school in Ballycastle, on the North Antrim coast, was achieving a real measure of integration—more than one fifth of its pupils were Catholics two years ago—until the Catholic grammar school across the road decided also to go comprehensive. Only one of the Protestant school's intake of 80 pupils this year is Catholic.

But the sectarian troubles and the attitudes of the paramilitary groups and of some parents on both sides are also clearly to blame. Several Protestant schools we visited in the Belfast area admitted that they had some Catholic children but asked us not to publish the fact, as it could lead to a witch hunt by extremist elements in the school, or to a bomb.

One of the many oddities about Northern Ireland is that there is complete integration in the special

schools for the handicapped and also throughout further and higher education, with the exception of the teacher training colleges, and no one questions that.

Lord Melchett said last week that there was no question of forcing integration of Protestant and Catholic schools, although the Government said that nothing but good could come out of voluntary integration. He hopes that comprehensive reorganization is taking place in England and Wales without the abolition of the denominational schools there.

There were other ways in which integration between the two communities could and should be fostered, he said: by changing the law to reduce the church domination of school management boards; by increasing the contacts between Protestants and Catholics already existing but were rarely heard of, such as in football leagues, adult education classes and youth clubs, by integrating teacher training in higher education and promoting the exchange of teachers between schools of different faiths; by carrying out research into curriculum development and by extending closely the possibility of integrated post-16 schooling in sixth form centres or tertiary colleges, which could be a logical development of comprehensive reorganization.

"So far there has been no major adverse reaction to the plans for comprehensive reorganization", a senior official at the Northern Ireland Department of Education told us. It is easy to laugh cynically at the apparent hollowness of such a claim but it is no mean achievement, given the entrenched positions of the churches and the grammar schools in Northern Ireland. It is indeed a tribute to Lord Melchett's sensitive handling of the situation that there has not been more of an immediate public outcry, and that discussions are continuing.

Lord Melchett's emphasis is on change "through evolution, not revolution". Getting reorganization right, he says, is more important than doing it quickly. No time has been set for reorganization, and the Government has no intention of introducing a date waiting for a change in government at Westminster. The 11-plus examination is being abolished this year, but is being replaced by another system of selection, teachers' assessment. In the meantime, the Government hopes to introduce a new examination, one on the position of the voluntary schools, to look at the many implications of comprehensive reorganization.

Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

How many medical graduates is enough?

Average number of appointments each year 1973-1976

	Replacement (due to deaths and retirements)	Newly created posts	Total	Posts filled by overseas graduates
General practitioner posts	1,150	220	1,370	890 (65%)
Hospital consultant posts	340	360	700	180 (26%)
Total	1,490	580	2,070	1,070 (52%)

* Figures available for 1974 only

In recent months many medical associations have expressed alarm that too many doctors will qualify from United Kingdom medical schools in the 1980s; they fear unemployment of newly qualified graduates—graduates that cost the nation over £30,000 each to produce; they fear unemployment of newly qualified doctors because of the shortage of permanent career posts.

There are many arguments either for an increase in the number of United Kingdom-trained doctors or for a decrease, but they are not the subject of this article. The subject is the number of doctors needed by a community. In this country we have had three major reports on this problem; in 1944 the Goodenough Committee recommended that more doctors were needed than followed such a surplus of highly qualified United Kingdom graduates in the 1950s that very large numbers were obliged to emigrate to find responsible work. In 1957 the Willis Commission came to the opposite conclusion, advice which may have led to the current shortage in hospital staffing. The Todd Commission in 1968 repeated the Goodenough Committee's advice, but since it takes 10 years for changes in medical school intake to affect NHS medical staffing, the problems are only now starting to appear.

Is there any formula that gives the number of doctors that a country requires to provide proper medical care for all its citizens? Each time in the question affects the answer. What sort of doctors are needed? Is the country rich or poor? Is its health service state-run, or is it a mixed system? What is the proper medical care appropriate to the country? How many doctors does the country have and what is their expected number in the future? It is precisely because there are so many variables that there can be no definite answers to these questions; this is why three learned committees on separate occasions have produced different answers, which in the event have proved to be wrong. The statistic giving the most trouble has been the predicted population of this country, which has defied accurate forecasting each time. What other way is there of assessing the need? To supply and demand the only satisfactory way? Unfortunately in the United Kingdom both the number of medical graduates and the number of posts in the NHS can be controlled directly or indirectly by government, so that simple market forces no longer operate. Furthermore because of the long delay between a medical student entering medical school and seeking his or her final post, as much as 15 or 20 years for some consultant specialists, it is highly important that a proper career structure must be available and adaptable.

In 1975 in Britain we had 91,600 qualified doctors. Sixteen per cent were retired, as there was one working doctor for every 715 people. Half these doctors were in the hospital service and a third are in general practice, a ratio that reflects the style of medicine practised in this country; the rest are employed in the army, industry and the universities.

One might think that proper medical care appropriate to a country should be related to medical need, but this concept is really an abstract one, very difficult to quantify let alone define. The usual factor that determines this quantity is the number of medical schools, itself determined by the cost of medical care. There is almost no limit to the possibilities with private medical care, but state-controlled health services are financed by general taxation which usually means that the amount of money spent on health is the smallest amount of the gross national product that the electorate will tolerate.

Surely to the medical profession depends on medical school places and the attractiveness of a medical career to sixth form students. University councils, prompted by government guidance, decide the number of medical school places. There has never been a shortage of suitable entrants, because medicine has always been an attractive career with its intense human interest, the drama of acute illness, the regular satisfaction of helping others and its universality with the expectation that a job could be found anywhere in the world. Although there are restrictions of entry to certain countries, the recent EEC directive on the free movement of doctors in Europe underlines this freedom. If the career prospects, both in number and quality, were limited and this were known, would this deter entrants? If it did not, then there would be 10 to 15 years in which to expand and alter the staffing structure of the health service in order to cope with a surplus of doctors. If it did act as a deterrent, there would be the same time interval in which to organize a similar contraction of the service.

Logie Bruce Lockhart
The author is Headmaster of Gresham School.

The following table reveals the current situation in the NHS in the United Kingdom, and is derived from data issued by the Department of Health and Social Security.

In each of these years it can be seen that about 1,000 United Kingdom medical graduates of qualified a post in general practice. Since it takes about 10 years from qualification to obtain a general practitioner post, these doctors qualified in 1968-1971, when about 2,130 new medical graduates were produced by British medical schools. This left 1,130 doctors each year hoping for other posts. Some have entered the hospital service in the expectation of obtaining a consultant post, which will take them about twelve years, that is in 1983. At present there is a shortage of training posts in many areas filled by foreign graduates, but unless there is the likelihood of a permanent post at the end of the training, no one will wish to undertake it. If there continues to be 20 consultant posts available each year, and over half of these are newly created, then the service, this will save United Kingdom medical graduates since there are many posts outside the NHS in industry, the army and the universities. The NHS is expanding every year; this depends on the posts being available, the working conditions being attractive, and the disappearance of redundant doctors. The extra 530 posts created each year means that the NHS is expanding every year; will it continue to do so?

But there is another consideration. As a result of the Todd Commission's advice the medical school intake has been steadily rising. In 1976 there were 2,790 new medical graduates, and the target medical school intake for 1981 is 4,000. If all 4,000 qualify in 1985, and the future rate of lower than ever before, then will be a dramatic change in job opportunities for them. At present there are 3,600 post-graduate trainees in the United Kingdom; this means that every newly qualified doctor must hold for one year by before he or she can be fully registered and practice in the NHS. A hospital is clearly in a year or two there will be a shortage of posts for newly qualified doctors. But those who qualify in 1985 will be looking for general practitioner posts in 1990, and there are only 1,370 posts then 2,630 doctors will be entering the hospital service which might have 700 consultant posts available for them in 1997. What of the other 1,930 to do?

One possibility of salvaging the situation is a highly desirable one. Until 1960 less than a quarter of United Kingdom medical graduates went into general practice, but the proportion has steadily risen so that in 1975 it was 31 per cent. The medical school intake now consists of equal numbers of men and women. At present 30 per cent of those appointed to general practitioner posts are women, but very few women become hospital consultants. For various reasons, family commitments and job design, many women never achieve their full potential of a full-time post, so it may be that of the 2,000 expected medical graduates who are women few will occupy the permanent career posts.

This will deprive the men of posts and so aggravate the employment problem for men. There are three solutions to this problem. Should an economy boom or more funds be found for the NHS and private medicine then more doctors could be employed, but the cost of an extra doctor is not just his or her salary but there is a far greater cost for the supporting services and personnel that are needed to allow the medical work to be done. If the population rises more doctors will be needed but this is contrary to current forecasts. A second solution is to redesign the staffing structure of the health service so that there are more permanent posts. At present a third of all doctors hold temporary training posts and the remainder hold permanent posts; this ratio needs to be altered so that there are only a sixth of all doctors on temporary training posts. This change means that there must be a dramatic alteration in the style of work of most doctors and this is very difficult to do. The third solution is to reduce the number of medical school places, a step now advocated by most medical institutions but this is not accepted by the Department of Health and Social Security. Unless one of these three solutions appears on the horizon soon, only the very bright sixth-former and the foolhardy should be advised to undertake the long, arduous and demanding career of medicine.

Dr Alan B. Shrunk
The author is Deputy President of the Association of General Practitioners.

Why Oxbridge must look to its students

"The enemy", said John Rae, headmaster of Westminster School at the recent Head Masters Conference, "is classical humanism... pure rather than applied, learning for its own sake, rather than for a purpose, remote academe, where government did not dictate or economic necessities intrude, above all where education was not geared to some national purpose but had intrinsic self-justifying merits... when the world power (Britain) reverted to the former status of trading state, these attitudes became obsolete."

Oh dear! We can most of us think of many worse enemies. There will always be a place for a small group of first class minds, independent of national or political pressures, striving to free themselves from prejudice and concerned with Truth rather than Expedience. Nevertheless, I agree with John Rae that these must be few in number; the trading state required wealth producers, businessmen, technologists, doctors, not abstract thinkers. Ivory towers, on mass, are not good substitutes

for factories, laboratories and farms. I disagree, however, with his suggested cure. He believes that schools should accept increased powers of direction from the Secretary of State. No, Dr Rae, the fault lies not with the schools. You are putting the cart before the horse. We know that new sixth form courses in business studies, industrial relations, creative inventivity and technology are due. We know that modern languages must be taught in conjunction with study of the institutions and geo-

graphy and business and industry of a country. We know that the two cultural divisions must end, and that five subjects, not three, should be studied after "O" level. The reign of illiterate doctors and engineers and unpractical and unmercenary men must come to an end, and we have a hundred suggestions as to how to do it, and how to restore the creative arts and crafts to a respectable place alongside academic skills. But the schools are powerless and so is the Secretary of State; even the examination boards, which could certainly help by moving

20 times in violence among minors. If our schools and especially their sixth forms, are to serve the modern trading state more effectively, two things are necessary. First, the universities must lead the change; second, the rewards offered by engineering and industrial management must be seen to equal those, for instance, offered to the top government bureaucrats.

It is the universities which govern the school curriculum. If the parents of intelligent students want them to go to university, and the students view this as the logical end of their studies, then the schools have to accept the conditions which the universities lay down for entry. Theoretically two, and, in practice, normally three highly specialized "A" levels. In the case of medicine and many scientific and engineering courses, these are laid down in such a way as to virtually prevent any other post "O" level studies, except for the outstandingly brilliant. Dr Richard Hogart, the former assistant director general of UNESCO said on Friday that the universities should provide more courses in the plastic and performing arts. The universities do not consider them academically respectable because they do not involve the exclusive use of books. How right he is! When at last year's Headmasters' Conference I asked the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge whether the English and modern language courses at that great university could not consider offering opportunities to relieve the tedium of unrelieved and constant critical analysis (to offer, for example, opera, acting, film studies, sculpture or creative writing in conjunction with the usual "A" level subjects). "If you want that sort of thing, there are other places to which you should send your students". Quite so, Madam; we are beginning to realize it. The inevitable reaction of most universities to suggestions of change to enable boys and girls to study more broadly in the sixth forms or at university is one of fear: fear of dropping standards, fear of becoming indistinguishable from polytechnics, fear of losing an extra place in the courses or of a time of financial cuts. Above all, they are so hamstrung by their own over-democratic-bureaucratic constitutions that change is only possible if it pleases everybody, which means that it is impossible.

If the universities do not change by offering some outlet to the doers as well as to the abstract thinkers, if they do not encourage applications from students with a broader band of post "O" level studies, if they do not change their entry requirements, and develop more inter-disciplinary courses, then they will be overtaken by the polytechnics and will struggle all significant school reforms. As lifelong supporters of Oxbridge, many of my colleagues are tumbling to the fact that many of the newer universities and the polytechnics are overcoming the no longer logical prejudice of parents and are attracting the more able and active minded students they desire. For they are rediscovering the truth known by the Renaissance: that the highest function of intelligent man lies in creation and activity not criticism.

As for the rewards offered by engineering and industrial management, you cannot blame youngsters for noticing that they are far smaller than those offered by other countries. Able engineers often return to school telling stories of disillusionment—no promotion on ability, penalisation for management, the constant criticism hindering all the difficulties of industry on those who carry disproportionate responsibility for negligible reward.

If pressure groups are to be formed for the reformation of our education, it is quite clear that where they should be directed. Universities must not remain so exclusively institutions for the promotion of narrow academics, but places where men and women can indeed seek for truth, but can at the same time develop creative intelligence in a way which is balanced and practical.



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Merger plan by two big Wall Street brokers

Two of Wall Street's largest brokerage companies announced today that they plan to merge. The Dean Witter Organization, which operates 146 domestic offices and employs 2,200 accounts executives, has reached a preliminary agreement with Reynolds Securities International, which operates 84 domestic offices and employs 1,350 account executives.

The merger is a surprise and has raised some new protests from the brokerage community to the Securities and Exchange Commission concerning the commission's plans to increase the number of managing off-board trading rules at the start of the new year.

By Patricia Tisdall

Interim price increases have been granted by the Price Commission to two organizations whose notified price rises are among the first to be investigated under the new price control legislation. These were sold yesterday that it could put up the prices of its processed food, beverage and aerosol cans by an average of 9.81 per cent with immediate effect. This compares with the company's pre-notified price increase application for an average of 10.5 per cent.

The Electricity Council has been given the full 1 per cent increase it sought to make adjustments for fuel cost increases.

In theory, investigation by the Price Commission should be confined to a significant price increase being frozen for the three month period of the inquiry. However, safeguard clauses laid down in the Price Commission Act compel the Commission to allow interim increases if an organization can prove that its profits and trading margins do not reach certain minimum levels.

Metal Box and the Electricity Council are the first to invoke the safeguards which operate on

an ad hoc basis. Their experiences will doubtless be regarded as test cases by future applicants. A third organization, Barclays Bank, whose application for price increases is also being investigated by the Commission, has not asked for interim increase. But Fisons, a latest firm to have its price increase application investigated, are giving "serious consideration" to seeking for an interim rise.

Announcing the increases yesterday, the Price Commission said it will allow interim increases to the extent to which the safeguard regulations operate.

The decision as far as the Electricity Council is concerned results from an estimate of the operations of the safeguard regulations in respect of the Area Electricity Board, British Gas and Wales. For Metal Box the increase also results from calculation of the operation of the safeguard regulations, though here the Commission indicate when announcing investigation that interim rises would be granted to take account of the cost of raw materials, especially tinplate.

Merger hint, page

External sales of £15,724,000 (£11,353,000 and profits of £732,130 (£550,282) are both more than 30% in advance of last year's all time record for the Group. These figures have been achieved after absorbing a continued loss in the Lifting Division although currently this area is recovering. A further progression in profits constitutes a record result and an increase in return on invested capital. The extent of the Group's diversification has enabled us to maintain advances in both volume and profits in a year which has been difficult with the continued lack of industrialised building projects.

Your Directors feel confident that your Company will make a further significant advance in both sales and profits during the current year and as indicated in the Interim Report, once again recommend an increase in the final dividend by the maximum permissible under current legislation.

The Group's efforts to export more have proved very worthwhile. Sales for export in excess of £1,500,000 in the current year. In addition, we have successfully obtained licensing agreements to manufacture the Group's products in Japan, North America, Portugal, South Africa and Qatar.

L. R. Courtney, Chairman

while and we will export in excess of £1,500,000 in the current year. In addition, we have succeeded in negotiating licensing agreements to manufacture the Group's products in Japan, North America, Portugal, South Africa and Qatar.

L. R. Courtney, *Chairman*

Sir Derek hopeful on exports to EEC

By Melvyn Westlake

Within a couple of years Britain could eliminate its deficit with the European Economic Community on its trade in manufactured goods, according to Sir Derek Ezra, chairman of the European Trade Committee, the Area Advisory Group of the British Overseas Trade Board, and head of the National Coal Board.

He was speaking at a lunch in London in advance of a national conference being held at the Wembley Conference Centre on November 29 to promote exports to Western Europe.

The conference will be opened by Sir Frederick Cathers, chairman of the BOTB and chaired by Sir Derek. Mr. Dell, the Secretary of State for Trade, is also expected to attend.

Sir Derek said yesterday that since 1974 there had been an improvement in the balance of trade in manufactured goods with Western Europe. This followed a decade in which Britain's deficit in this sector had become steadily more adverse.

Since 1952, the proportion of Britain's exports going to Western Europe had risen from just over 30 per cent to 52 per cent in 1976. At the same time, the proportion going to Commonwealth markets had dropped from 38 per cent to 15 per cent.

Sir Derek said that he was against allowing the exchange rate of the pound to rise against other currencies. This would introduce another element of uncertainty for our exporters.

Next month's conference, he said, would include case studies of four companies which have experienced and overcome some of the practical problems of exporting to Western Europe.

These are Marks & Spencer; Hamworthy Engineering; of Poole; Colt International, of Havant, Hampshire, and Bevan Funnell, of Newhaven, Sussex. Exporting to Western Europe, 1977, is the culmination of a series of Export Dynamics Conferences held throughout Britain during the past two years. Between 6,000 and 10,000 companies have been invited to attend.

Voluntary liquidation for Liberian tanker concern

By Peter Hill

International Correspondent

Phillips Petroleum confirmed yesterday that a shipping company in which it has an interest had declared itself insolvent. The company is the Liberian-based Multinational Gas and Petrochemical which is involved in the transport of liquefied petroleum gases and chemicals. The oil company holds a 43.5 per cent interest in Multinational through its subsidiary Philtankers Inc, with the balance of shares in the company held by the French concern, Société Anonyme de Gascogne et d'Armement.



Sir Geoffrey Howe, Mr Gordon Borrie and Mr Charles Williams at yesterday's seminar: measuring the watchdog's role.

Hint of Price and Monopolies merger

By Patricia Tisdall

The possibility of an amalgamation of the Price Commission with the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was discussed at a seminar on the new price code in London yesterday. Speaking about the possible overlapping functions of the two organisations, Mr Charles Williams, chairman of the Price Commission, said that in his view a fusion was "more a question of administration than principle".

Since some 700 sectors of British industry had been identified as containing potential monopolies, it was not possible for the Monopolies Commission alone to investigate all of them under its present structure and method of working.

Mr Gordon Borrie, director general of the Office of Fair Trading, thought that "the present roles of the two commissions are complementary". He added that it was a mistake to think that, after the creation of

the new Price Commission, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission had been left with little to do.

"Fusion may well be desirable in due course," said Mr Borrie, "but I think it is worth making two points on this. Firstly, the MMC is a body of 30 years' experience and, although no one in industry likes the burden of an MMC inquiry, few would dispute the thoroughness, fairness and judicial care it brings to bear on its work."

Secondly, now the Price Commission has been reconstituted, further institutional change should not be made before there is adequate experience of its work."

The Price Commission, even when it examined the relationship between price levels and anti-competitive practices in a certain sector of industry, was essentially concerned with making a judgement only as to whether current or proposed price levels were justified. The Monopolies Commission

had frequently been asked to look deeper, to examine the basic structure of an industry and to investigate anti-competitive practices which were not necessarily concerned immediately with price levels. These included practices such as refusal to supply and exclusive dealing arrangements.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer and one of the architects of the first phase of price controls, commented that "price control must be seen as being on its way out".

He added that "Coexistence of the Price Commission and the Monopolies Commission must be seen as difficult to justify on a long-term basis."

Examining the operation of new price controls, Mr Williams said companies were having to spend too much time to comply with the system. He is meeting the Confederation of British Industry next week to see if it can be simplified.

Imports force cuts in US steel prices

Pittsburgh, Oct 3—Because of heavy competition from low-price imports, American domestic steel prices have been softening in recent months, compounding the industry's profit problems, a spokesman for the United States Steel Corporation said.

Steel buyers report that in response to the competitive pressure, big domestic mills are selling some steel at below list prices, either directly or through distributors.

These buyers claim the discounts that are available on a wide range of products, including sheets, an item that has been buoyed by consumer-goods demand most of this year and last.

The import pressure comes on top of an already sluggish domestic steel market. Capital spending demand for heavy steel products continues to lag behind industry hopes, and car makers' demand for lighter,

flat-rolled products has been one of the few consistent bright spots.

With profits down in this uncertain market, many steel-makers have taken harsh belt-tightening steps in recent weeks, including plant closings and lay-offs.

Any action by the Carter Administration to restrict steel imports could ease the industry's pricing pressure, even if demand remains somewhat sluggish.

Kenya coffee crop sets new record at £250m

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Oct 3

Kenya's coffee production has set a new record of more than 96,000 tonnes for the crop year to the end of September. This surpasses last year's record of 80,000 tonnes, and with average prices this year even higher, Kenya has earned about £250m from the 1976-77 crop.

This is about two and a half times the figure earned for the previous season's crop, and coffee earnings are the main component in the wave of prosperity now affecting Kenya.

Normally, a record crop such as that achieved for 1975-76 would be followed by a smaller crop. But exceptionally good rains fell at the end of 1976 and throughout most of this year, producing an unprecedented increase in the output of coffee.

Although market prices have fallen considerably from earlier levels—last week's Nairobi coffee auction averaged about £1,835 a ton, or much less than half the levels achieved earlier this year—the average for the crop year is still about £2,800 a ton, which is much higher than last year's average price.

CSA survey to support export proposals

The Computing Services Association, which represents 135 companies in the computer bureau, software and consultancy industry, is to conduct a survey of its members as a prelude to putting forward firm proposals for government support for their export activities.

Mr Peter Merrick, of Lowndes-Ajax Computer Service, the newly elected president of the CSA, told members last week that the association would welcome a more general extension of its principles of government support for exports indicated by the National Enterprise Board's Inscac scheme (which involves companies in which the NEB holds an equity stake).

Something similar to the existing Software Products Scheme, under which the Government contributes half the cost of development, might be desirable, the CSA president suggested last week.

Other possible forms of assistance would include a reduction (from the present £10m) in the contract value on which the Government can place a 50 per cent of the cost of bidding on overseas projects; more easily arranged performance guarantees through the Export Credits Guarantee Department;

Computer news

and the adoption of double deductions for export costs for tax purposes.

According to Department of Industry statistics, work for foreign clients accounted for about £12m of the computer services industry's total £223m in 1976, or between 5 per cent and 6 per cent.

Braille production

A computer-based system for the production of braille literature has been ordered by the Royal National Institute for the Blind. This includes two GSC 4070 computers, Lynwood input and text-editing visual-display terminals, and braille editing terminals developed by Sigma Electronic Systems.

The equipment will be used in the RNIB's new printing centre to speed publication of an increased range of braille books and periodicals for educational, vocational and recreational purposes.

Operators at 16 text-entry terminals will key in text from

English originals

The computer system will transcribe this into braille output coded on to magnetic tape cassettes. These will be used to control machines which punch the braille characters on to spot plates suitable for use on printing presses.

Tesco's mini

Tesco, the supermarket group, is to use a Computer Automation mini-computer to control the receipt, allocation, transfer and loading of "Home" and "Weekend" goods at the group's warehouse in Milton Keynes. This warehouse holds about £10m worth of stock.

The system automatically allocates goods received (by issuing pallet tickets instructing the fork-lift drivers where to store the goods); and transfers the correct amount of already stored goods to a special area where they are loaded on to delivery vans according to picking lists generated by the company's ICL 1904S mainframe computer at Chesham.

UCSL chooses Ite

Unilever Computer Services Ltd (UCSL) has ordered an Ite Advance System AS/5-1 com-

puter (functionally equivalent to an IBM 370/158) for its Burgess Hill computer centre. This is the first sale by Ite of an Advanced System in the United Kingdom.

According to Mr Len Rawle, UCSL chairman, the decision was based principally on cost-performance considerations, and involved extensive comparative studies.

Stock management

A new materials management system which has been implemented by the Comshare bureau in a number of engineering and manufacturing companies is now being generally marketed—initially with an emphasis on mechanical engineering companies which assemble products from piece parts.

Known as BOSS, the system uses a terminal in the user's office which is connected to the Comshare timesharing network to provide the processing and control of stock levels, demands on stock and supplies into stock. In addition the user can simulate the effect of various production plans on existing and expected stock levels.

Kenneth Owen

Leyland Cars faces another strike threat

Leyland Cars could face a second strike threat, soon. Leaders of 3,000 coolroom workers have already called an all-out stoppage from October 28 over their demand for separate negotiating rights, now representatives of 14,000 other skilled workers are to approach the management with a similar claim for talks on a single craft agreement.

Leyland, intent on introducing corporatist wage bargaining, are expected to refuse. Mr Alan Young, chairman of the newly formed Leyland Craft Organisation, said yesterday that his members might join the coolroomers on strike.

"We do not see strike action as a way of achieving anything but when it comes to the last resort . . .", he said. The craftsmen's leaders are deferring a decision on whether to link up with the coolroomers until they get an answer from the company.

Asked if, in view of Leyland's financial plight, they would go ahead with their strike, Mr Ray Francis, the coolroomers' leader, said it would be the management's responsibility if they were forced into another dispute.

The strike need not take place "but we are determined to see a situation where our views are heard at the negotiating table".

Marina dispute: Marina output at Leyland Cars assembly plant at Cowley was halved yesterday by an internal dispute which caused 1,000 workers to be laid off.

In brief

N Sea oil output up in August

Oil output from the British sector of the North Sea rose to more than 821,000 barrels a day during August, from just under 768,000 barrels a day in the previous month, according to figures issued yesterday by the Department of Energy.

Production is still not back to the record 835,000 barrels a day reached during May because the oil companies took advantage of improved summer weather for maintenance and new construction work.

British Petroleum turned down the taps on the biggest producer, the Forthies field, while it installed gas-processing facilities, and the Brent field was completely shut down for the installation of gas injection facilities.

BAT launches cigarette in UK

British-American Tobacco, a division of BAT Industries, announced yesterday that it is to embark on a full-scale marketing launch into the United Kingdom cigarette market. The decision follows 18 months of test marketing of its State Express 555 brand of cigarettes mainly in the south of England.

Despite its size—it claims to be the world's largest tobacco company—BAT's was prohibited until 1972 from selling cigarettes in Britain under an international reciprocal trading agreement with Imperial Tobacco.

Social settles Libyan dispute

Standard Oil of California (SOCAL) has ended its four-year-old dispute with the Libyan Government resulting from the nationalization of its 30 per cent share in the Amosmos consortium in 1973 and 1974.

During a period of 15 months it will receive crude oil worth \$76m (£43m) and in return will end arbitration proceedings against Libya.

Texasco, SOCAL's partner in Amosmos, reached a similar settlement with Libya at the end of last month.

Community price rises of 0.4pc

Brussels, Oct 3—Consumer price indexes in August in the European Community rose an average of 0.4 per cent over the July figures, Eurostat, the EEC statistics office said today. The July figure was 0.3 per cent up on June.

While on a month-to-month basis the average inflation rate appeared to have accelerated slightly, the price increase in a year in August was just 10.5 per cent—AP-Dow Jones.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Little accountability for hardship of sub-post office closures

From Mrs Ruth Lyon

Sir, On September 26 in *The Times* the Post Office, in reply to the letter of Mr John Lyon on this subject which you published on September 21, wrote that "as life styles change, as populations shift and society generally alters with the passage of time, so the sub-post office system has to adjust to meet these changing needs of our customers". I was fascinated.

To meet these changing needs the Post Office are closing a local sub-post office which today is busier than at any time in its history—paying out some £10,000 each week in pensions and allowances—in addition to its large postage, licence and giro business. The area it serves, far from declining, is booming with extensive new private housing and a new industrial estate within a quarter mile of the post office.

In the future the need for the post office will be even greater because of the development of a three-acre housing estate, the building of council sheltered housing units for 66 pensioners, the continuing replacement of old houses, shops, rooms and shops, and the occupation of a three-storey office block by a government department.

What disturbs me apart from the running down of services to the public—in a so-called "public service"—is the Post Office's total lack of accountability. Local councillors (borough and county) and local MPs, all of whom have written in opposing this proposed closure, have to justify their actions to the electorate. The Post Office seem accountable to

no one and dispense statistics and platitudes like "there are three other post offices within a mile" which use cases like the le-Grand bus which must in fact mean up to a two-mile walk each week for many of the 750 pensioners. To quote W. S. Gilbert, these platitudes merely attempt to "give artistic verisimilitude to an otherwise bald and unconvincing narrative". Yours faithfully,

RUTH LYON (MRS), 11 Riverside Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey, September 26.

From the Chief Executive, Eden District Council

Sir, Being a Chief Executive of a District Council with a small population dispersed over more than half a million acres, I was deeply concerned to read in *The Times* of the Post Office's Department of the Post Office in your columns yesterday.

It is quite clear that whilst the story is not wholly of closures, the effect on the communities will be no further diminish the provision of facilities upon which they rely. In passing, why should the provision in towns be twice as good as in the countryside? In most towns there are reasonable transport facilities; in most rural areas there are not.

I have looked quickly at the map this morning and it is clear to me that if the Post Office were to work to a minimum separation of two miles (and how long would it be before that was extended to four or five miles?) over a dozen sub-post offices would be being considered for closure in this district alone. This conflicts with the evidence which the Post Office apparently gave to the Countryside Review Com-

mittee, since in their discussion paper on rural communities they say "although many sub-post offices in rural areas are uneconomic the Post Office do not plan to reduce their number".

It is, of course, not a communications and postal services that are under consideration here. That may be all the Post Office sets out to do, but the sub-post office plays a much more important part in the whole fabric of a rural community, and alongside the schools and the local authority, it is also the effects will be to accentuate what some people see as inevitable decline, row deterioration of village life, which some of us in government, with the aid of such valuable allies as Countryside Commission and Development . . . believe to be reversible and able of setting a pattern of living which many of those urban areas would do well attempt to emulate.

If the Post Office is to be minded, and I suspect they are, to close down the network of such valuable allies, I think the least that they should do is to set out much more clearly the criteria which they intend to use and to discuss with all affected bodies, such as the local authority, and not least the National Association of Local Councils, the plan to which they are working. I have seen sub-post offices closed and believed it to be a mistake. It is a mistake to take the job on. It is, however, to be much more matter of Post Office policy, no less to be deplored because of that.

Yours faithfully, DENNIS BROWN, Eden District Council, Town Hall, Paurish, Cumbria, CA11 7QF.

World Bank loan to Peru based on 10 year budget

From Mr Michael Lubbock

Sir, I refer to the Peruvian Ambassador's letter (September 2) about the Peruvian request for a \$1,000 million loan from the World Bank.

The loan was based on a 10-year budget which showed that the corporation could meet the loan charges, given certain conditions. The most vital provision was in the government's loan guarantee agreement with the bank, which said that the government would grant such tariffs as would be necessary to meet the loan charges, given certain conditions.

The corporation, to meet all its costs, including loan service.

The government did in fact authorize annual tariff increases which mathematically covered the annual wage increase of the corporation. The facts are that the dividend was over paid on the ordinary stock since the start in 1890; that dividends on the preference stock ceased in 1912; and that \$1,000 of bonds acquired in 1890 were worth \$1.30 (nominal) in 1967, with accumulated unpaid interest of \$990.

Yours truly, MICHAEL LUBBOCK, Apartment 206, 1785 Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Canada, September 13.

'Too much law' paradox

From Mr Charles L. Dodd

The comment by Sir Geoffrey Howe in the recently published *Too Much Law* that it is hard to see the case for the survival of the present shop closing law would not be surprising, in view of its source, were it not contained in an official publication of a party headed by one who professes a long association with and a close knowledge of the needs of the retail shopkeeper.

Further, in view of the attitude of the party to the Clay Cross scandal and similar matters which have led the party to preach the sanctity of the law, it is surprising to see in an official Conservative publication the suggestion that because the law is widely disregarded, it should be abolished.

The fact is, of course, that certain promoters of Sunday markets are making a vast fortune from breaking the law and the publicity given to their antics perhaps prompts Sir Geoffrey to imagine that the

abolition of the restrictions on the opening hours of shops is a vote catcher. He should be careful.

He would be wise to enter into discussion with the National Chamber of Trade before he pursues his ideas further or he may well be faced with the same tragic reaction that followed the last-minute vote-buying exercise of Mr. Heath, in the abolition of retail price maintenance.

Sir Geoffrey should recognize that at a time when employees generally are looking for shorter working hours and more pay, the small shopkeeper also looks for a degree of relief. Leave shop hours alone Sir Geoffrey, or you could well lead your party to the opportunity to regret at leisure, in a further period of opposition, a hasty and ill-conceived policy.

Yours faithfully, CHARLES L. DODD, Chairman, The National Chamber of Trade, Enterprise House, Hestley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, RG3 1TU, September 27.

Not a mention of money supply

From Mr R. G. Opie

Sir, In today's issue (September 28) you publish two long feature articles. One analysed the success of the Japanese economy, the second the problems of the world economy. Neither mentioned,

even once, the supply of money or DCE or even the PSBR.

Sir, is nothing sacred? Yours faithfully, R. G. OPIE, New Zeal House, 38, Oxford, OX1 3BN, September 28.

PS—The story has a happy ending. At one of our present London meals the reception was only too pleased to add me in the bar while the message was punched and sent and brought me the message (after transmission)—all less than £4 including a drink.

Brown Brothers Corporation Limited

7 Southampton Place, London WC1A 2DE

E. G. Spearing, Executive Chairman, comments:

"In a period in which the industries we serve have had problems, our profits and earnings have exceeded forecasts and we expect these trends to continue."

Profits and Earnings surge ahead

	Six Months 30.6.77	Six Months 30.6.76	% Increase 1977 on 1976
Turnover	31,950	27,853	14.7%
Pre-Tax Profit	1,290	750	72.0%
Interim Dividend	0.5p	0.2p	150.0%
Earnings per share	1.275p	0.810p	57.4%

The vehicle component distribution and engineering Group

JAMES WALKER Goldsmith & Silversmith

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman Mr. Gerald S. Sanders

After the fall in turnover and profits in 1976 the results for the current year once more show a return towards the record levels of 1975.

Had it not been for the restrictive legislation, your Board would have given serious consideration to paying a dividend more in line with the earnings of your Company.

The whole of your Group's assets are free of any charges and encumbrances and we are therefore very well placed should the opportunity for any major acquisition by the Group present itself.

Since the end of this year I am happy to report that turnover continues to show an encouraging increase over the record turnover for 1977.

Group Results for year to 30 April

	1977	1976
Turnover	£14,674,905	£12,328,976
Profit before Taxation	£2,643,698	£2,049,224
Profit after Taxation	£2,084,617	£1,265,969
Earnings per Share	12.75p	7.74p
Dividend per Share	2.313p	1.908p
Dividend Cover	5.58 times	4.06 times

Copies of the Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, James Walker Goldsmith & Silversmith Limited, Century House, Streatham High Road, London SW16 6BB.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

UDT to join the options bandwagon

ited Dominions Trust, the instalment group, may take a stake in the London Clearing House. Owned at present by four major jobbers and the broking of Vickers da Costa, LOCH is to run proposed market in Standard Exercise Options and, with a capital of £2.5m, guarantee the options contracts.

The emergence of this new stakeholder from the work UDT's subsidiary, Internal Commodities Clearing House, has been carried out for LOCH in drafting programme for the introduction of the options market.

A programme should be presented to the work UDT's subsidiary, Internal Commodities Clearing House, has been carried out for LOCH in drafting programme for the introduction of the options market.



James Dundas Hamilton, chairman of the Options Committee of the Stock Exchange.

clearing members now believe that they in a position to start the education of market to the ways of traded options and an option minded brokers who might be interested in taking a stake in LOCH. DT's offshoot, ICCB, seems a natural participant. It clears and guarantees commodity futures contracts for its members such as the size of the amounts it lies, its capital was raised five-fold last to £12.5m.

Meanwhile the seemingly slow progress of a traded option market's introduction as two further points. First, the experience of Option Committee members on recent fact finding trip to the United States suggests that the Securities Exchange Commission called a halt to the use of traded options simply because it lost the thread of its development—trying to watch if London is ill-prepared to trade options.

Second, with relevance to the debate now in progress about London's current jobbing system, the scrutiny of LOCH's assets assumes a determination to avoid costly.

UDT's profits slipped from £3.7m to £3.2m in the half-year to July despite a rise of £222,000 from provisions for its trading against £259,000 in the corresponding half. But the 12p fall in the price to 200p had more to do with the disappointing comments about trading in second half.

The market is looking for growing profits as consumer groups as the cumulative effects of tax rebates, mortgage interest rate

reductions and phase three pay rises, begin to push through into spending. Currys comments that trading conditions continue to put pressure on margins and volume is still about the same as last year's is no more than natural caution about when the upturn will materialize, and should be treated as such. The omens are still good.

The acquisition of the 77 Loyds shops a year ago will have tended to depress margins, as they are at the small end of the Currys range, but they are building market share and a fall in credit business in the half is not more than was to be expected while the outlook remained uncertain.

But while the pace of wage rises is likely to work in Currys' favour this half, the real improvement looks unlikely to develop until next year when general optimism about the economy should be rising. If the market has been a little too early to anticipate the trend, both Comet and Dixons have been even better performers than Currys, although unlikely to outperform in the short-term, now has the best potential of the three.

Mail order As costs level out

Mail order groups do not catch the upturn in retail sales quite as quickly as the stores sector. But even without this rapid gearing element the three pure mail-order companies have fully managed to hold their own against the rest of the retailers over the past couple of months.

With precious little volume growth in the 28 weeks to the end of August—only 3 per cent in the overall 19 per cent volume rise to £77.6m—the key to the 22.3 per cent gain in Freemans pre-tax profits to £5.52m has been the slow-down in cost increases, which have helped trading margins improve almost half a point to 7.6 per cent.

In part this has resulted from Freemans' deliberate policy a year ago to cut out unprofitable agents and tighten up financing of debtors. So unlike Littlewoods, for example, Freemans has not been keen to chase volume at the expense of profits.

For the rest, March and July were awards have raised labour costs by not much more than 5 per cent against almost double that figure a year ago and printing and distribution costs, too, have dropped from last year's high levels.

But after more than doubling since their low of a year ago when high interest rates cast a shadow over the whole sector, the scope in the shares now lies in what they can produce in 1978-79 since any stimulus to the economy will come too late to affect the second-half. For its part, Freemans is unusually confident about next year and with few cost pressures sales gains of 15 per cent could easily be translated in profits gains of double that.

For the moment, however, Freemans should make £12.6m this year putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of around 12 at 318p, up 5p yesterday. Freemans is now boosting its agents and given the streamlined warehouse system is intrinsically better placed to handle any upturn than Grattan for instance.

slow road back in partworks

shall Cavendish is now two years into programme for spreading its profits base a wider area than the partwork publishing which was the inspiration at the company's birth 10 years ago.

Partwork publishing, selling magazines kly so that they form over a period into complete encyclopaedia proved a money-maker for the company for its first five years and culminated in profits of £3.7m in 2, the year of its flotation.

UDT profits have never reached that level in, so Marshall, though continuing to expand partworks as a growth area, is diversifying into more traditional book and publishing.

Underlying stability in the cash flow is vided by a continuous contribution from ideas working themselves through design markets and into new editions. But a difficult business to forecast has combined with the fact that shall has always been regarded as a nil-

asset company which have made the shares unattractive to institutional investors in the past.

Its profits performance has not helped either, and the latest figure of £1.2m pretax, just marginally up on the interim last year, holds out little hope of the company returning to its 1972 peak even though results so far have been depressed by a considerable amount of launch spending.

Recently, there have been signs of the institutions overcoming their misgivings. The placing of the 11.7 per cent stake held by the British Printing Corporation went smoothly in April and another 500,000 shares from the Gresham Trust's 16 per cent holding were lapped up eagerly last year.

The shares at 52p, down 11p yesterday, compared with the flotation price in 1972 of 112p are not unattractive on income grounds with a yield of 11.6 per cent, and could be helped by any pickup in consumer spending.

George Copeman on the background to the Government's paper on worker shareholdings

When everybody gains from sharing

Surely the issue of shares to employees is a dilution of the equity? If the issues are kept below the 'equilibrium point' all the participants gain. If exceeded there is dilution.

During this period of twilight government, when the traditional colours of the parties are not too obvious, we may see one or two pieces of legislation which are drafted with better-than-average skill. If this happens, it will be in areas where the Civil Service has been quietly building up its expertise, with little or no "aggro" from the day-by-day political battle.

A case in point is profit-sharing and employee share ownership. Mr David Steel, MP, revealed at the Liberal Conference last week that he had been promised by the Chancellor of the Exchequer a consultative document on the subject, now being prepared by the Treasury with a view to introducing legislation in next year's Spring Budget.

One might ask, but why legislate? Surely it has always been possible for companies to pay some of their profits to employees and to have this money allowable as a cost, for corporation tax purposes? Yes, it has, but worldwide experience of cash profit-sharing has not been very rewarding.

As a consequence, in the United States, only 2.5 per cent of the total of over 200,000 profit-sharing schemes now involve cash only, another 17.5 per cent involve cash and shares and the other 80.2 per cent involve the issue of shares only to employees.

Where shares are issued, there is the problem of the effect on share values if these new shares are immediately saleable. ICI experience in this respect has been better than in generally supposed. Seventeen years after the company introduced their employee share scheme in 1954, a census of the share register revealed that 37 per cent of all the shares issued to employees were still in the same hands.

Nevertheless, in the last 23 years few companies have dared to do a full limitation of the ICI scheme. Barclays Bank and Lucas Industries have issued shares to managers and Marks & Spencer are planning to issue them to long service employees.

But the crucial test in any company is this: if last year's profits were shared with all the employees, would the company be able to make them, and if the

money was invested in new issue shares which were immediately saleable, would this flood the market and make a mockery of the idea of widening share ownership?

At present only 3.8 per cent of people of working age and above in Britain own shares, according to a survey by Professor E. Victor Morgan of Reading University. By contrast 25 per cent own shares in the United States, according to the research of Professor Philip Blumberg of the University of Connecticut. Britain is therefore at a crossroads: to take the wrong direction could be a disaster for the cause of industrial ownership and for the personal freedom which goes with it.

Those who want employee shares to be immediately saleable are possibly confusing stock market investment with industrial investment. When a company reinvests some of its profits in a new factory and at the same time capitalizes part of those profits and issues shares to employees, there is no way in which employees can opt out. Imagine an employee saying to the managing director: "I don't agree with the new factory. I want to invest elsewhere, so leave a few pounds off the roof and give me cash instead."

When council houses are sold to tenants in Britain, there is usually a required holding period of five years. When shares are issued to employees in France and Germany, they are required to hold them for five years. The typical "pay-back" period for new investment calculations in industry is seven years.

The ICI experience shows that some employees will hold shares for much longer than five years. The typical average holding period could be obtained if there was a compulsory holding period somewhat shorter. Alternatively, if the tax system could encourage employees to hold shares but at the same time allow them to sell, this could provide a compromise between the City view of portfolio investment and the industrial view of complete project investment.

Although the forthcoming consultative document arises from a Liberal pact with a

tax paid when he sold. There would of course have to be an upper limit to the value of shares on which an individual could claim this concession.

The enthusiastic view of the green paper was that a tax cap might reduce to zero after five years, as in France and Germany. This is probably too drastic. What Britain needs is to improve on the ICI experience of employee shareholding, not to smother it with over-indulgence.

If the future basic income tax rate in Britain is likely to be around 30 per cent, I would want to see a tax taper which imposed a full income tax liability when an employee sold shares within two years of issue and which then fell by perhaps 3 or 4 per cent a year to a level of 20 per cent for shares held five years or longer.

In my experience, there are plenty of employees who would hold shares for five years if they could thereby bring their tax charge down to 20 per cent. If a modest tax taper proved to be inadequate, some future Chancellor could steepen it, but one ought to start modestly.

Over three-quarters of the working population are employed in the services sector and we depend on them for the bulk of our home supplies plus our export income. A tax taper which enabled them to share in the profits when their companies were successful, and which at the same time made them shareholders, could provide a much needed incentive to extra effort.

This is not easy to prove, though it is common sense. An admirably limited American study has shown that over an 18-year period a sample of companies with deferred profit-sharing schemes were outstandingly more successful than a similar sample which did not have such schemes.

If employees really want shares, why do they not save up and buy them? Personal saving out of take-home pay is not in fact a normal way of acquiring shares, except when someone starts a new business. As my article in these columns on August 26, 1976 showed ("Share ownership and the limited influence of parsimony"), in the 10 years 1965-74, some 52.5 per cent of new capital formation took place inside existing busi-

nesses, through the reinvestment of profits. 22.9 per cent occurred in central and local government, also 22.4 per cent took place through pension funds, life insurance policies, mortgage and hire-purchase repayments. The non-profit bodies accounted for 1.1 per cent and a figure of 1.1 per cent remains for all net personal saving, by which I mean genuine self-denial. It is clear that unless there are employee share schemes, the distribution of share ownership is likely to remain extremely narrow.

Surely the issue of shares to employees is a dilution of the equity? This depends on the size of the issue. The basic mathematics of employee shareholding was done by a German economist named Thünen in the last century. What the modern world has been able to learn from Thünen and has seen demonstrated by American practice is that there is an equilibrium point in employee share issues. If the issues are kept below this level, the shareholders and the employees both gain. If the equilibrium point is exceeded, there is dilution.

What about those who do not work in the market sector? Why should the marketeers have a special tax concession? One advantage of using a very modest tax taper is that those who cannot benefit, have less objection. The non-marketeers already have better pensions and more secure jobs. It is a matter of "horses for courses".

Finally, it may be said that the "Lab-Lib" consultative document will be very timely in view of the Department of Employment's work in approving profit-sharing schemes, as one form of self-financing productivity deal.

Those who are engaged in devising schemes of this kind inevitably find that there is a limit to the cash which employees can take out of the business without being in danger of eating the seedcorn needed for tomorrow's harvest. They can have a slightly bigger share, provided that the extra is taken in seedcorn and is planted, not eaten.

The author is a management consultant and a deputy chairman of the Worker Share Ownership Council.

Eric Wigham

Do firms get the labour relations which they deserve?

It has often been said that "managements get the kind of labour relations they deserve". It is commonly assumed, as it was in the Donovan commission's report nearly a decade ago, that companies with effective and orderly collective bargaining will have better industrial relations than companies without. That the formalization of industrial relations procedures will lead to better management-employee understanding and that the division of labour for shop stewards will help to improve industrial relations.

Doubts are thrown on all these propositions as a result of work in the field recorded in a new book* by Professor H. A. Turner in collaboration with two colleagues at Cambridge University. One, Mr Geoffrey Roberts, has since gone to the Local Authorities Conditions of Service Advisory Board and the other, Mr David Roberts, to the Office Park Management College at Bournemouth.

Professor Turner has never been one to accept popular assumptions unquestioningly. It was he, it may be remembered, who produced a paper in 1963 challenging the general belief that Britain was particularly strike-prone.

Two years earlier, Professor Turner was co-author of a study of labour relations in motor manufacturing. He was struck then by the fact that even in that troubled industry one or two major firms had been totally strike-free. Why, he asked himself, was the strike record of these firms so different from that of the majority?

Research had shown big differences in management organization, particularly in the way labour relations were handled. Was the peaceful record of some undertakings due to particular methods of management and, if so, could these methods be identified? He and his colleagues tried to find out and this study is the result. It was in the course of their investigations that they came to question "conventional wisdom" about management and labour relations.

The thesis that managements get the kind of labour relations they deserve is perceptually dismissed: "This says, in effect, that 'good' managements get 'good' industrial relations and approximate to a proposal in (these virtues) is always rewarded in this world) which would, in the light of other



Workers exercise their voting rights: "Formal provision for employee communications favours industrial peace."

moral experience, appear theoretically naive", say the authors.

They incidentally point out that in recent years the most strike-prone industries have been comparatively highly paid. However, they considered it possible to test the doctrine that specialist provision and expenditure for labour relations pays off in significant improvement in performance and other aspects of the Donovan analysis.

As a result of their attempt to apply tests, they came to the conclusion that there is a systematic relation between strike incidence in firms and their managerial practices, but that few of the conventional prescriptions for industrial peace are supported by the evidence.

They say that the virtue of an increased ratio of specialist labour relations staff remains unproven and indeed may be "further suspect". Orderly bargaining, formalized agreements and procedures and more facilities for shop stewards result in standardization and a bureaucratization and increased rigidity that go with a higher rather than a lower strike incidence.

On the other hand they find a "fairly definite indication that formal provision for employee communications, particularly formal joint consultation, favour industrial peace."

One would hesitate, however, to advise firms as a result of this study to reduce the number of their labour relations staff, make their bargaining less

orderly, abandon formal consultation procedures or withdraw shop stewards' facilities. There are so many variables and information is so limited that it is impossible to establish convincing links between strike incidence and any single aspect of management.

The authors in fact carefully avoid telling employers what to do, as is the practice in most books on labour management. They concentrate on inquiry into facts, but were faced with great difficulties. To begin with they came up against the very low evaluation by British managements of the utility of systematic data on labour matters.

The state of labour relations may be indicated by other factors than strikes, such as absenteeism and labour turnover, but they found the only company with reasonably complete statistics were the Department of Employment's records of industrial disputes, while on the management organization side they had to depend on interviews which meant limiting themselves to a comparatively small sample.

They chose two groups of plants, one strike-prone and the other strike-free, but in the strike-free plants ceased to be so. However, they were left with 45 plants in half a dozen industries with varying records of strike incidence which they compared with various management characteristics.

Sometimes it was doubtful

Business Diary: Morrell's special offer • Whither CBI?

de Morrell, who some say the first Englishman to be man of the board of one of the United States top 500 companies, may now have been the first to give an African firm to the English. Morrell has acquired the family firm, John Morrell Company from its presenters, United Brands Inc, for undisclosed sum and has in the ordinary shares to a lot for the benefit of the 600 shareholders.

The firm, which can vegetable, preserves, and dog food, headquarters in Liverpool, factories in Lincolnshire, in 1920's it became the subsidiary of its own offspring, the Chicago-based company. John Morrell went public and Morrell spent 50 years of the two firms, including the chairman of the board, the American end, retiring in 1969 when they were freed by United Brands.

John Stead, chairman of the firm and Morrell's successor in the United Kingdom, Business Diary's Ross as last night that Morrell's offer to buy back the company after Stead's reported UB's instructions to look around for a buyer.

Morrell at once offered to buy the firm and present it to the buyers - to the deal, Stead said, but the deal was until the passage of 1976 Finance Act made it such a transaction that it did not incur capital transfer tax.

B wanted to get out of the business, Stead said, after last year's £14.6m profits. £400,000.

Turnover this year will be £17m, although the profit ratio is likely to be less favourable, mainly because of weather problems.

The company will come to the employees with the financial backing of two institutions, the clearing banks Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and Midland Industrial Investments.

They are each to subscribe £400,000 for preference shares and to provide £350,000 as a nine-year loan with a repayment "holiday" for the first four years. First National Bank of Chicago and Barclays Bank will continue part support with overdraft facilities.

Stead said that no change in management was seen apart from the arrival on the board of ICF and MIV directors, and, for the time being, no works directors.

Claude Morrell, who is now 83, lives in a Merseyside nursing home. His wife died last year and they had no children.

What price the emergence of a Confederation of British Business are long?

This would seem to be the implication of the broadening of the membership of the CBI since John Methven succeeded Sir Campbell Adamson last year.

The confederation at one time represented manufacturing industry, but a number of retail firms like Marks & Spencer have followed insurance firms into the fold.

CBI is to hold its first national conference, something of which few of its continental counterparts can boast. Modelled on

the Trades Union Congress, this will show publicly to what extent the leadership can claim to speak for the membership.

Methven, no less Len Murray or the leaders of the three main parties, must have a taste for standing ovations. What better way to speak off one such than to announce the renaming in a keynote speech.

The theme of the conference is, after all, "Britain Means Business".

First, however, he will have to talk his way out of the row with ministers over his apparent readiness to endorse 10 per cent plus pay settlements by his members, while exhorting the TUC to stand firm on 10 per cent minus claims by theirs.

If ministers stop the new state oil, shipping and aerospace corporations from affiliating to the CBI, the case for a CBB begins to look thin. He also needs back the Post Office, which walked out two years ago, saying the CBI did not speak up for nationalized industry.

Some bright spark in the United States Department of Labour (always in the van of equal opportunity movement) has dreamed up a campaign to persuade employers to take on alcoholics and drug addicts. Cocktail party cynics now are saying that the only problem about hiring alcoholics is that they are all already working as corporation vice-presidents. Perhaps drug addicts will come easier.

The latest news item from stockbrokers Rowe Pimman is not a company but a Lord Mayor of the City of London.

Five months after the launch of the mini television with a two-inch screen, Sinclair Radionics, which received almost £2m of National Enterprise Board funds to pursue the venture is getting a picture of who is prepared to spend £225 for the luxury of carrying around a set in his pocket.

Clive Sinclair, the chairman, told Business Diary yesterday that in the United States, which is getting more than half of the 2,000 sets a month being produced at the St Ives factory, he believes purchasers include sports fans who take their TVs to events in order to watch action replays.

In Britain, one was bought by a chauffeur, bored with waiting for his master to return to the car while others have been sold to long-distance rail travellers. Sinclair says that demand is high from people earning less than £4,000 a year which, he maintains, disproves the theory that the set is only a rich man's toy.

Production is to be doubled next month but will still not be enough to satisfy the market. Sinclair now suspects that the Japanese are developing a similar product which may be on sale next year.

Jargon corner: they've struck a rich vein of "situations" at Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, where the chairman Ronald Fraser managed to get through Fraser in one page of one speech. He says it is "a classic situation in copper and zinc particularly dominates the situation".

James Neill Holdings Limited

Manufacturers of hand tools, engineers' cutting tools, permanent magnets and other engineering supplies.

	6 months to 30.6.77	6 months to 30.6.76	6 months to 30.6.75
Turnover	£20,877	£19,729	£17,440
Group Profit	2,038	1,046	1,029
Taxation	1,050	716	554
Profit after Taxation and Minority Interests	988	330	475
Ordinary Share Dividends	295	371	269
Retained Profit	693	(31)	206
Trading Profit as % of Turnover	14.5	10.7	10.6
Earnings per share	7.2p	2.4p	3.5p
Dividend per share	2.2p	2.75p	2.0p
Net asset value per share	157.3p	152.7p	146.3p

Extract from Chairman's Interim Statement:

"As long as sterling remains firm and costs increase in the UK at a faster rate than abroad, British industry has a real battle on its hands, not only when selling abroad but also in the home market. Nevertheless the outlook for James Neill is still encouraging and Group profits in the second half of 1977 should match those achieved in the first half."

James Neill Holdings Limited, Napier Street, Sheffield S11 8HB

Stepping Stones—Non-Secretarial—Secretarial—Temporary & Part Time Vacancies

PUBLISHER REQUIRES SALES TRAINEE

Cambridge University Press requires a Trainee for all sales aspects of the book publishing business. The successful candidate will be expected to share in the administrative and sales responsibilities of the Press and to assist in the recruitment and training of new staff. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

NON-SECRETARIAL

MILL HILL SCHOOL

Requires

A QUALIFIED SRN

to be in charge of the Sanatorium to work in close touch with the School Doctor and to take further responsibility (to be discussed). This is an important appointment and will command an appropriate salary. Single accommodation will be available and holders will be generous. Mill Hill is a school of some 500 pupils (approximately 300 boarders and 200 day pupils). Applications in writing, stating age, qualifications and previous posts held, together with the names of 2 referees, should be sent to The Bursar, Mill Hill School, The Ridgeway, London, N.W.7. Envelopes to be marked "Medical-Confidential".

STEPPING STONES

P.R. £3,500

Assistance please for this position. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

adpower

Staff Consultants

NON-SECRETARIAL

PUBLIC RELATIONS MAYFAIR ESTATE AGENTS

We are looking primarily for an assistant in our management department to deal with the public, but the person appointed would also be involved in organising our advertising. Experience preferred but not essential. Must be able to type and correspond. Age 18+; Salary £2,500+. Contact: Mayfair Estate Agents, 499 9663.

GOOD ORGANISER WITH SOME FRENCH OR GERMAN TO £4,000

Fine opening with many and varied responsibilities. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

RECEPTIONIST TO £3,500

Super position in Health and Beauty examination for someone who can deal with the public, but the person appointed would also be involved in organising our advertising. Experience preferred but not essential. Must be able to type and correspond. Age 18+; Salary £2,500+. Contact: Mayfair Estate Agents, 499 9663.

RECEPTIONIST

Must be capable and helpful. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

SMART PERSONAL ASSISTANT

required, 30/30, for Antiques and Jewellery shop in West End. Experience not essential. Telephone: 629 0308.

NUMERATE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATE

Wanted to become involved with all aspects of magazine publishing. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

WE NEED YOU! Small but growing

financially sound management/retail business. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

YOUNG AND SUCCESSFUL

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SALARIES CLERK

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MORE APPOINTMENTS ON PAGES 8 AND 25

SECRETARIAL

PART-TIME SECRETARY

Our Client, a Personal Consultant in W.I. wants a good Part-time Secretary to work for the Consultant. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

I'VE BEEN PROMOTED

As Director of Public Relations for a large company, I have been promoted to a higher position. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

PERSONAL ASSISTANT

Looking for something different? Management department of a large company. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

PUBLISHING

Literary P.A./Sec. with very good skills for M.D. of small, prestigious Publishing House. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

JAYCAR CAREERS

730 5448

THE INNS OF COURT

The Inns of Court are the only place where you can get a legal education. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

PRETTY PERCEPTIVE

Working for a large company, I have been promoted to a higher position. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

PERMANENT/TEMPORARY

JOYCE GUNN, a professional secretary, is looking for a new position. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

START EXPLORING

Facilitating job-holding type role for an individual. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY/F.A.

Consultant, West End office, needs intelligent, well-organized, experienced, and motivated person. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

PR PROSPECTS

An extremely busy and dynamic PR company needs a good person. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

Mayfair Estate Agents

We are looking for a person with a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

CHELSEA, SW3

Small Property Company seeks a person with a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

PA/ESTIMATOR

Highly responsible position for a person with a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

SECRETARY/SHORTHAND

Required by a large company. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS

Two positions available. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

COLLEGE LEAVES SECRETARIES

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DOCTOR needs

A person with a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

CLASSICAL MUSICIANS

Agency, Knightsbridge, needs classical musicians. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

DOCUMENTARY FILM

Production company needs a person with a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

HARLEY ST. person

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RECEPTIONIST

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NUMERATE PUBLISHING ASSOCIATE

Wanted to become involved with all aspects of magazine publishing. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity. The successful candidate will be expected to have a minimum of 18 months' experience in a sales or administrative capacity.

WE NEED YOU! Small but growing

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FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Second liners well to the fore

Initially firm after Friday night's late run and the strength of sterling, shares prices drifted back as the opening of the Labour Party conference introduced a note of caution. The tilted market charted a similar course though the decline was more pronounced as investors took their profits following last week's unprecedented gains. Some long dates ended as much as a full point lower having started the session a similar amount higher. Shorter maturities lost one-eighth to one-quarter. The FT index, a full five points ahead at 10 am, closed 0.6 lower at 520.1. But many dealers felt this was rather misleading for though leading shares were neglected there was a fair amount of trading in the second-liners.

The "beers" have been at the top of the market for some time. But dealers are optimistic for this week's interim figures looking for profits of around £25m, against £15m, OCL expected to contribute around £11m. In addition Bovis has £5m from a North American claim but there is doubt how it will be treated. The shares closed to 141p.

Among the industrial leaders Metal Box led the way up rising 10 to 34p after the go-ahead to raise prices. Other good spots were to be found in GEC, up 5p to 276p, Unilever 4p to 588p and BSA 3p to 348p, but EMI led ground heavily in front of figures closing 8p lower at 220p. Consumers issues continued their recent strength with shares like Dixons Photo 11p to 171p, Henry Wigfall 9p to 148p and George Bassett 12p to 135p all making further progress. Mail order group Freemans rose 6p

to 318p after a late rise which followed profits bang in line with market expectations. But Currys, at 212p, pared an early 15p rise to only 5p after figures which many found disappointing. Others, however, found this verdict a harsh one. Bid stocks produced the biggest percentage rise of the day Mining Supplies jumping 24p to 93p on news of an approach. Fine art group Spink & Son climbed 43p to 315p waiting for further news while Sothebys rose 9p to 193p in sympathy. Better news from Derwent helped British Electronic Controls to firm to 31p while both Henlys 9p to 135p and Photopia 3p to 51p rose on speculative support.

Howard Machinery 8p to 46p, Gieves Group 6p to 85p, Lookers 7p to 51p and Hestair 4p to 140p. But adverse comment hit Tate Lyle to the tune of 4p, to 196p and Royal which was lowered 4p to 231p.

Merchants bank continued to perform strongly, notably Guinness Peat 9p to 215p, Hambros 10p to 252p, Brown Shipley 3p to 208p, and Keyser Ullmann 3p to 49p. Jobber Airways and Smiths gained another 8p to 285p. Stired by recent takeover activity tea shares sprang to life. Demand gained 13p to 95, Assam Frontier 20p to 304p and Jekal 7p to 220p. The terms from Longbourne helped British India to 75p to 325p. News that ATV had become a close company lifted the "A" shares 5p to 112p. In oils Carless Capel held steady at 49p in front of what is expected to be good news this week on its fourth well in Block 21/2.

Profits statements lifted Jax Neil 10p to 89p, Beatson Clark 5p to 193p, Campari 7p to 55p, and Courtney Pope 8p to 95p. Associated Dairies were lifted 3p to 38p by the annual report. Stock shortages played a part in the insurance sector where

Sum Alliance scored a rise of 13p to 662p, Pearl gained 12p to 282p and Royal one of 10p to 482p. North Sea aspiration lifted Associated Newspapers which finished 8p to the good at 163p. Equity turnover on September 30 was £128.24m (19,923 bar-
Currently trading at 49p Carless Capel can be in for a good run. News that ATV had become a close company lifted the "A" shares 5p to 112p. In oils Carless Capel held steady at 49p in front of what is expected to be good news this week on its fourth well in Block 21/2.

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Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Advance Ldr (I)	11.1(10.6)	1.7(1.5)	1.9(1.7)	0.2(0.3)	3/1	(1.5)
Bentley (I)	1.0(1.0)	0.1(0.1)	0.1(0.1)	0.1(0.1)	3/1	(2.9)
Bertam (I)	1.5(1.0)	0.65(0.48)	0.7(0.5)	0.1(0.1)	3/1	(1.7)
Campari (F)	13.3(9.4)	1.6(0.8)	1.6(0.8)	0.8(0.2)	3/1	1.8(0.54)
Courtney Pope (F)	15.7(11.3)	0.73(0.56)	0.73(0.56)	0.1(0.1)	3/1	2.16(1.9)
Credentia (I)	0.15(0.1)	0.03(0.02)	0.03(0.02)	0.03(0.02)	3/1	0.03(0.02)
Currys (I)	65.8(56.8)	3.2(2.6)	3.2(2.6)	0.5(0.5)	3/1	(4.06)
G. K. Bates (F)	27.7(8.5)	2.2(1.6)	2.2(1.6)	0.4(0.4)	3/1	(5.7)
Group (F)	1.0(0.7)	0.05(0.03)	0.05(0.03)	0.05(0.03)	3/1	0.05(0.03)
Evered (I)	5.5(4.2)	0.06(0.03)	0.06(0.03)	0.06(0.03)	3/1	(5.4)
Freemans (I)	77.5(64.9)	1.0(0.7)	1.0(0.7)	0.1(0.1)	3/1	(5.4)
Gartons (F)	0.58(0.45)	0.04(0.03)	0.04(0.03)	0.04(0.03)	3/1	(5.4)
Int Combustion (I)	1.0(0.7)	0.05(0.03)	0.05(0.03)	0.05(0.03)	3/1	(5.4)
Jax Neil (I)	2.1(1.8)	0.02(0.02)	0.02(0.02)	0.02(0.02)	3/1	(5.4)
Mailbox (F)	8.8(5.6)	1.2(1.1)	1.2(1.1)	0.1(0.1)	3/1	(5.4)
Yates (I)	1.0(0.7)	0.05(0.03)	0.05(0.03)	0.05(0.03)	3/1	(5.4)
Sheffield Twist (I)	11.6(8.6)	1.4(0.5)	1.4(0.5)	0.1(0.1)	3/1	(5.4)
Synth & Co (I)	0.35(0.28)	0.01(0.006)	0.01(0.006)	0.01(0.006)	3/1	(5.4)
Wideline (I)	4.8(3.7)	0.12(0.08)	0.12(0.08)	0.12(0.08)	3/1	(5.4)
Wood & Sons (I)	2.0(1.6)	0.21(0.17)	0.21(0.17)	0.21(0.17)	3/1	(5.4)

Mining Supplies may get bid

By Desmond Quigley

Shares of Mining Supplies, which manufactures equipment for the mining industry, jumped 24p to 93p yesterday on disclosure of a possible takeover bid.

The announcement was made by Mr Arthur Snipe, chairman and managing director of the company who holds some 45 per cent of the equity directly, because of recent movements in the share price. Last week the shares gained 11p to 69p.

Yesterday's rise in the share price came despite a very cautious statement from Mr Snipe who gave a warning that "there is no certainty of the negotiations being brought to a successful conclusion since they are at a very preliminary stage".

Mining Supplies' adviser, Singer & Friedlander, declined to name the company which has made the approach.

Although Mr Snipe is shown in the last annual report as having 45 per cent of the company's equity, it is believed that total family holdings probably amount to over 50 per cent. A company called Abingworth holds 542 per cent.

In the year to end-April last the company increased pre-tax profits by just under a quarter from £1.4m to £1.75m. The net asset value backing for the shares was 27p.

The National Coal Board is the company's main customer. Mining Supplies manufactures a spiral vane cutting head for long wall coal mining and also makes mining conveyors.

Briefly

Derritron steps up counter offer for BEC

Derritron, the electronic equipment maker, which is controlled by Amalgamated Industrial Holdings, has increased its bid for British Electronic Controls. The renewed bid is in the face of competition from SRE Electronics, a company owned by three BEC directors.

The terms are two Derritron ordinary plus 3p cash, which values BEC at £138m. This compares with the higher offer from SRE which valued BEC at £144m. Last week Derritron said it would delay any new moves, as it wanted to know what extra information SRE had enabled it to raise its bid by 26p to 29p a share.

DEUNDI/JAZERITE

Purchase of shares by Jazerite Holdings at 89p has raised cash offer for Deundi to that level.

INT COMBUSTION

Recovery continues and group should beat £178m pre-tax made over 1976. All subsidiaries operating well.

LINPOOD HOLDINGS

Board proposes one-for-one scrip issue. Group has made £1.5m profit for the year to June 30. This was an increase from 2,900m yen in the same period last year.

WOLSTENHOLME BRONZE

Disappointing demand for bronze powders has been offset by better demand for other products. The company is to be paid for full year.

MARKET REPORTS

Beats
heads
another
best

Commodities

With the dollar remaining firm, the recent IMF meeting and projections that America's large deficit will continue until well into 1978, the pound scored a good gain to close at \$1.7559 after a peak of \$1.7569 and compared with Friday's \$1.7476. The effective index remained steady at 62.3.

In one of the most active sessions for some time, dealers reckoned that, at a conservative estimate, the Bank of England expended some £150m in checking sterling's advance, and believed that today's reserves will show another big increase.

Despite substantial Bundesbank support, the dollar dipped to around 2.2875 at one stage before ending at 2.2905, well down on Friday's 2.3001. Swiss intervention was also noted, the franc ending at 2.3350 (2.3445).

Gold gained 21 pence to close at £155.375.

Forward Levels

The dollar forward levels for the month of October are as follows:

Month	Forward Level
October	2.2905
November	2.2905
December	2.2905
January	2.2905
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May	2.2905
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